◆Keiko Ushijima's Works◆

Asuka Comics

Bokura no Nanokakan Sensou
Bokura no Nanokakan Sensou 2
Necromancer
Mermaid wa Nemurenai
Toy Soldier
Fredward-shi no Ahiru Vol.1

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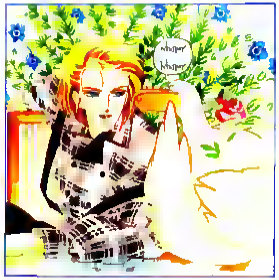
Kevin's ex-lover, Esmeralda, pays him a visit! She seems to be hiding a deep secret! Here's the 2nd segment of Rosemary the duck housekeeper and Kevin's fantastic neo-romance. The bizarre life of a person and a bird continues!!



Keiko Ushijima. Born on July 6th. Grew up in Saga City, Saga Prefecture. Blood type A and zodiac sign is Cancer. Her debut work was "Yami no Banri Hikiukenin".

ASUKA COMICS

Fredward-shi no Ahiru

Mr. FredWard's Duck

Ushijima Keiko

Volume 2

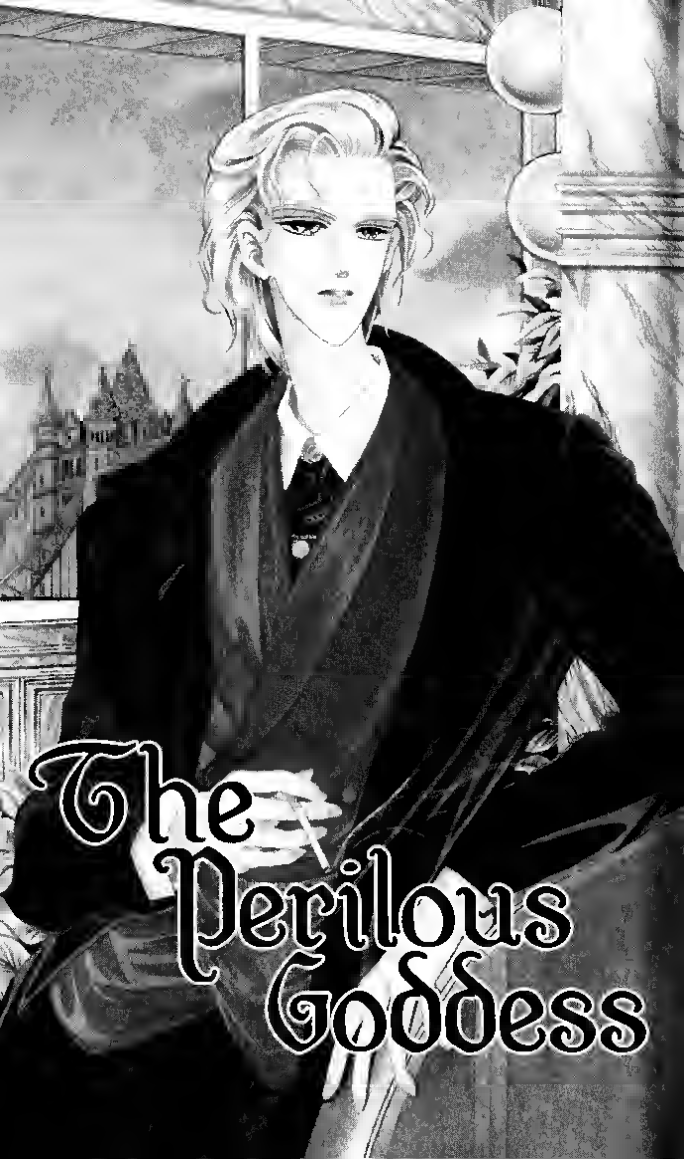
CONTENTS

The Perilous Goddess ---- 3

The Golden Puppy ---- 67

Listening To The Voice Of The Sea 115

Duck Bonus ---- 170


The Perilous Goddess

I HAD A STRANGE DREAM LAST NIGHT
I WAS A SMALL CHILD AGAIN
Wha?
SOMEHOW...
AND MY GRAND-MOTHER APPEARED BEFORE ME
SHE ACTUALLY PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS TEN YEARS OLD...
GRANDMA

LISTEN CAREFULLY, KEVIN I HAVE GOOD NEWS
HE ISN'T COMING
IT ISN'T HIS TIME YET
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT SHE WAS TRYING TO SAY,
BUT IT WAS SO PAINFUL AND SAD

I WAS CRYING IN BED.
WHEN I WOKE UP.
HOW COULD A GROWN MAN CRY IN HIS SLEEP!?
GULP
IT FELT SO REAL...

DING-A-LING~
WELCOME MR. FRED-WARD.
I'VE LIVED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR ABOUT A YEAR NOW.
THIS WINTER SEEMS ESPECIALLY COLD.
CLATTER
I'D LIKE ONE ORDER OF THAT WITH A CUP OF HOT TEA
I RECOMMEND TODAY'S SPECIAL, RABBIT AND HERB PIE.

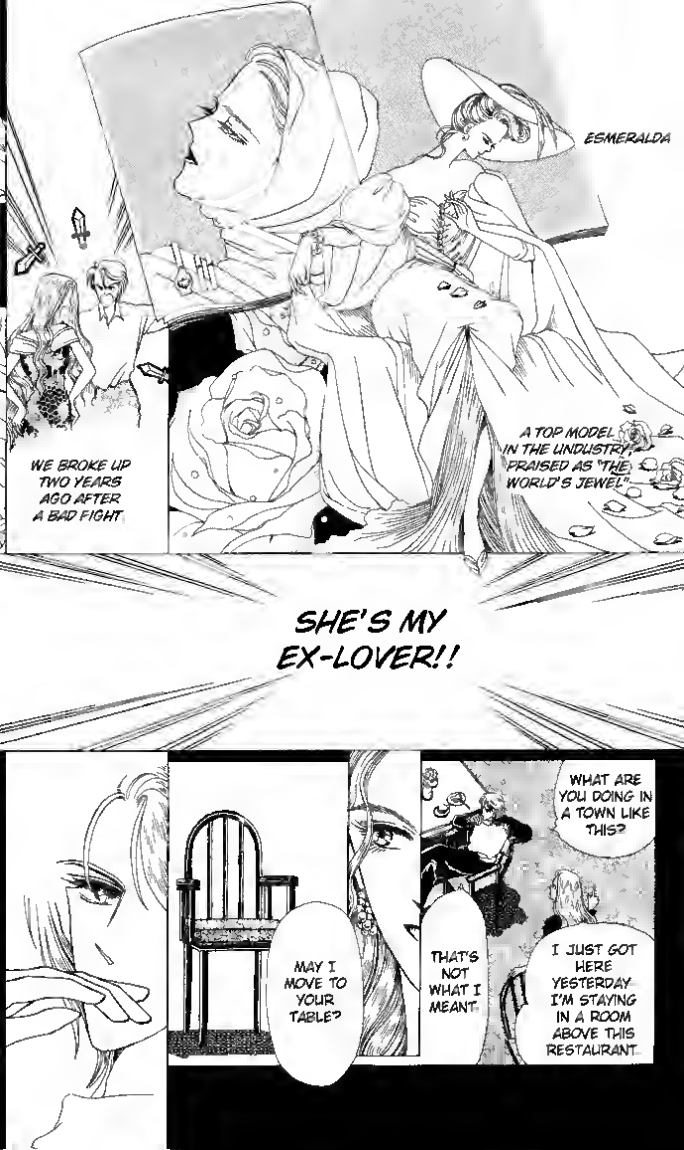
WHEN THE SNOW TURNS TO RAIN, IT WILL BE SPRING SOON...
ISN'T HE KEVIN FREDWARD?
A-AU, IT'S HIM! I'M PROBABLY DREAMING!
UM... THIS BOOK...

Rosemary garden
YOU'RE THE AUTHOR OF ROSEMARY'S GARDEN, RIGHT?
THIS TOWN IS THE SETTING FOR YOUR BOOK, RIGHT?
'CAUSE THE SCENERY IS EXACTLY THE SAME EVEN THOUGH YOU CHANGED THE NAMES!
I LOVE HER CHARACTER!
BUT THE BEST PART IS ROSEMARY,
THE DUCK WHO BECOMES A HOUSEKEEPER!
CLINK
SHOCK
KYAA
HE'S SO AWESOME!
HE'S EMBARRASSING HIMSELF IN FRONT OF HIS FANS!
YES...
PLEASE SIGN MY COPY!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SIGNED ANY AUTOGRAPHS.
THANK-
PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
HUH...?
YOU'RE THE PRIDE OF THIS TOWN!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BEST-SELLING SUSPENSE NOVELIST WHOM THE MEDIA ONCE ADORED?
HAS HE SUNK SO LOW THAT HE'S SOCIALIZING WITH COUNTRY GIRLS NOW...?
HOW SAD

ESMERALDA!
CAN THIS REALLY BE MY FORMER LOVER?

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN


ESMERALDA
A TOP MODEL IN THE UNDUSTRY, PRAISED AS "THE WORLD'S JEWEL".
WE BROKE UP TWO YEARS AGO AFTER A BAD FIGHT.
SHE'S MY EX-LOVER!!
MAY I MOVE TO YOUR TABLE?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I JUST GOT HERE YESTERDAY. I'M STAYING IN A ROOM ABOVE THIS RESTAURANT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A TOWN LIKE THIS?

SLAM...
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
WELL, EXCUSE ME.

TADAA
NEITHER HAVE YOU. I'M SO GLAD, KEVIN!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL
STARE STARE
IN THE MEAN-TIME, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS ...
DRIVE
SHE'S A DEVIL.
URK!
HER SELFISHNESS AND BLUNT HONESTY ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
I HATE THE COUNTRY-SIDE!
HUUUUU....
SEE? SHE'S STARTING ALREADY. SHE'S SO SELF-CENTERED.
THIS TOWN IS TOTALLY EMPTY. IT'S LIKE A CEME-TARY.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY PLAN TO CONTINUE LIVING HERE?
I GOT RID OF THEM.
WHAT ABOUT THE FERRARI AND THE BENZ?
THEY'RE USELESS HERE
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THIS FUNNY CAR!?
Roast Beef, Funny Car
I CAME TO TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME, KEVIN
THERE'S NO WAY A DUCK CAN EVEN BE A HOUSE-KEEPER!
ROSE-MARY!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GIVE UP BEING A SUSPENSE NOVELIST--?
YOU'RE WRITING CHILDREN'S FAIRY TALES!

♪
OH MY! IT'S SO RARE FOR US TO EVER HAVE A GUEST!
WELCOME! PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.
She invited herself in!
I didn't BRING her with me!

HOW DO YOU DO?
I'M THE HOUSE-KEEPER, ROSEMARY
THIS DUCK CAN SPEAK ?
DON'T TELL ME ...
Woof Woof
Cliff, I love
PINCH
awww!
QUACK
SO CUUTE!
WHY YOU ...!
THIS ISN'T A DREAM!
IT'S A MIRA-CLE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, IT'S TRUE!

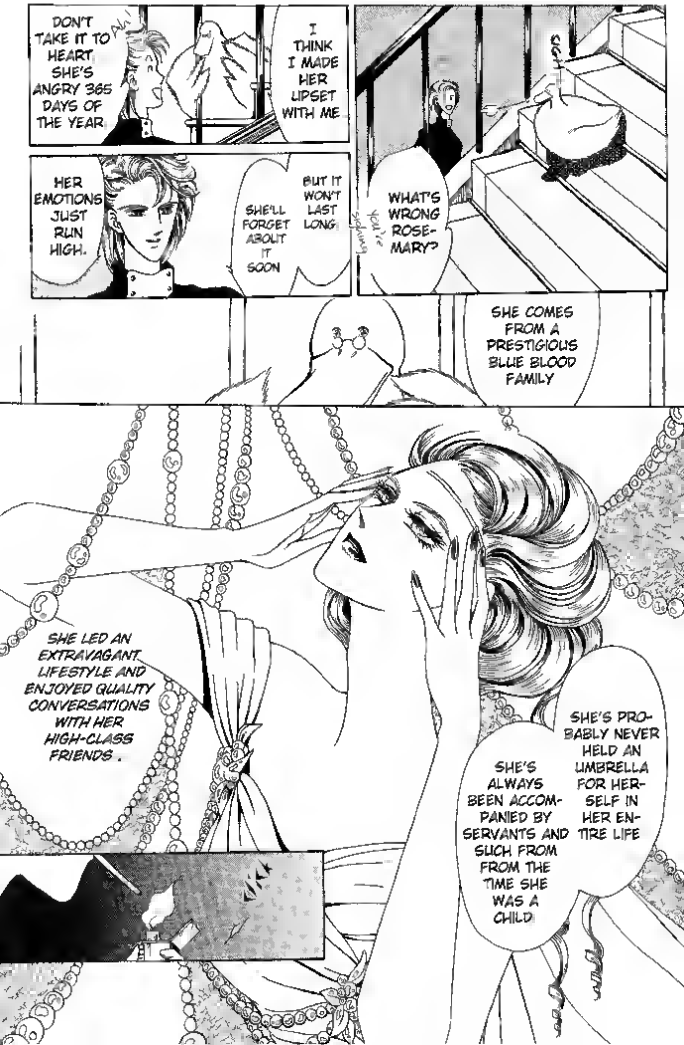
KEVIN, I WANT THIS DUCK!
ROSEMARY ISN'T A THING! I CAN'T JUST GIVE HER AWAY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MISS ESMERALDA.
BUT MASTER KEVIN IS MY EMPLOYER
THEN I'LL DOUBLE.
NO, TRIPLE YOUR SALARY!!!
I HAVE NO WISH TO LEAVE MY HOME-TOWN.
ALL RIGHT THEN, IT'S DECIDED! CHANGE OF PLANS, KEVIN. I'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE.
WHAT!?

LOOKS LIKE I WON'T BE BORED IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE AFTER ALL
THAT'S FINE, RIGHT?
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY SHOW UP HERE, ESMERALDA?
SO WHERE'S MY ROOM?
ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

THIS ROOM ISN'T SO BAD.
THOUGH IT'S PRETTY AVERAGE
MY FAMILY'S SPECIAL.
BUT ONE-NINTH OF THE MEMBERS ARE JUST PLAIN DUCK.
SO HOW COME YOU CAN TALK?
NOW, MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
WHAT IS IT?
DID YOU TAKE THE NAME FROM THE MAIN CHARACTER OF VICTOR HUGO'S NOVEL?
Notre Dame de Paris
THAT'S EVEN MORE AMAZING! YOU CAN READ!?
FLAP FLAP
IS ESMERALDA YOUR REAL NAME?
NO.
IT'S ACTUALLY MARIE CHRISTINE RANDSHAW.
ESME-RALDA IS MY STAGE NAME
THAT'S CORRECT!

SET DURING THE MIDDLE AGES IN FRANCE
ESMERALDA WAS A GYPSY GIRL
WHO LOVED HER FREEDOM
EVEN THOUGH SHE DIED AT THE END OF THE BOOK,
BEFORE HER DEATH, SHE SAID
"LIFE IS WONDERFUL"
1966 FRANCE
I ENVY
SIGH...
THAT KIND OF STRENGTH
ARE YOU HERE ON VACATION?
I HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH KEVIN REGARDING HIS BOOK.
DO YOU KNOW THE BLACKWELL COMPANY?
JUST AS I THOUGHT.. I'LL HAVE TO TELL HIM MYSELF

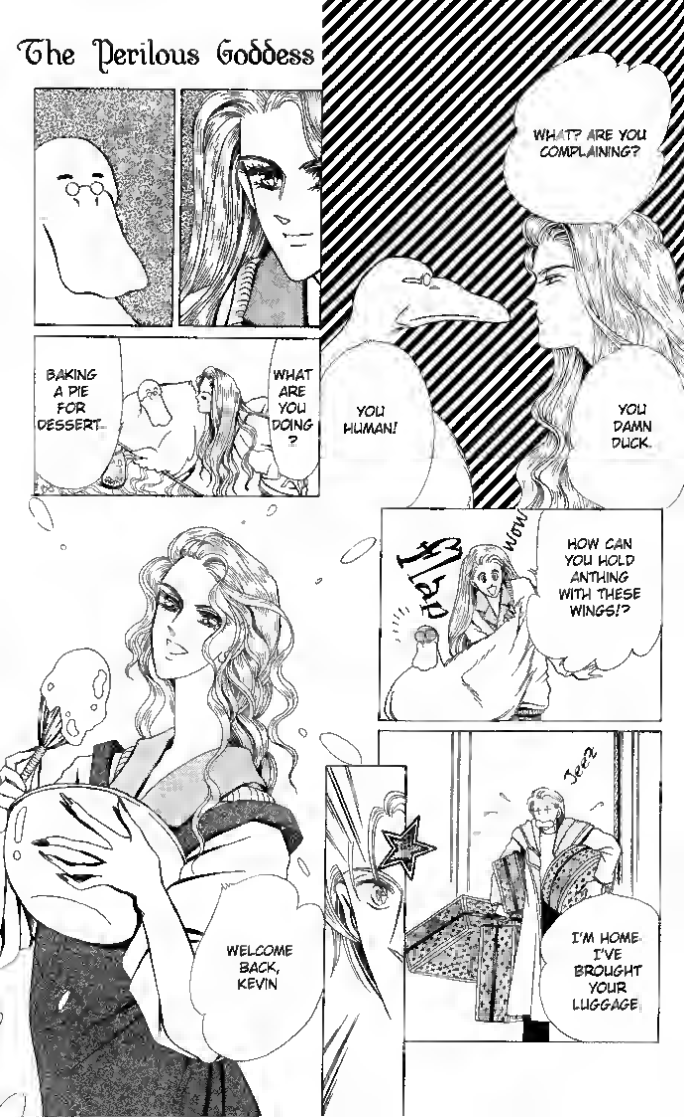
KEVIN HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL
HE'S STILL THE SAME
HIS FACE ALWAYS SHOWS WHAT HE'S THINK-ING
TO LEAVE THE CITY FOR A WHILE
PER-HAPS I JUST WANTED
AND MASTER KEVIN ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO ASKS A LOT OF QUESTIONS.
IT'S VERY PEACE-FUL
THIS IS A GREAT PLACE
YOU SPEAK AS IF
YOU KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT HIM
——!
WELL, I'VE LIVED WITH HIM FOR A YEAR NOW.
AND I LIVED WITH HIM FOR THREE YEARS
GET OUT
I HATE ANIMALS
? ? ?


DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART. SHE'S ANGRY 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR.
I THINK I MADE HER UPSET WITH ME.
WHAT'S WRONG ROSE-MARY?
BUT IT WON'T LAST LONG.
SHE'LL FORGET ABOUT IT SOON
HER EMOTIONS JUST RUN HIGH.
SHE COMES FROM A PRESTIGIOUS BLUE BLOOD FAMILY
SHE LED AN EXTRAVAGANT LIFESTYLE AND ENJOYED QUALITY CONVERSATIONS WITH HER HIGH-CLASS FRIENDS.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN ACCOM-PANIED BY SERVANTS AND SUCH FROM THE TIME SHE WAS A CHILD.
SHE'S PRO-BABLY NEVER HELD AN UMBRELLA FOR HER-SELF IN HER EN-TIRE LIFE

OUR PATHS SHOULD NEVER HAVE CROSSED. I WAS IN A STREET GANG, DIGGING THROUGH TRASH TO STAY ALIVE.
THEN, SHE RAN AWAY FROM HOME
SHE GOT A JOB AS A CHORUS GIRL AND EVEN DID DRUGS.
WE FOUGHT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT.
BUT LOOKING BACK...
WE SHARED SOME HAPPY TIMES DURING OUR THREE YEARS TOGETHER
I DOUBT IT WAS A DIFFERENCE IN BREEDING THAT CAUSED THEM TO BREAK UP.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY ARE TOO ALIKE.
STAY HERE, AND GUARD THE HOUSE, CLIFF!
I'M OFF TO GET HER LUGGAGE!
WOOF
WOOF

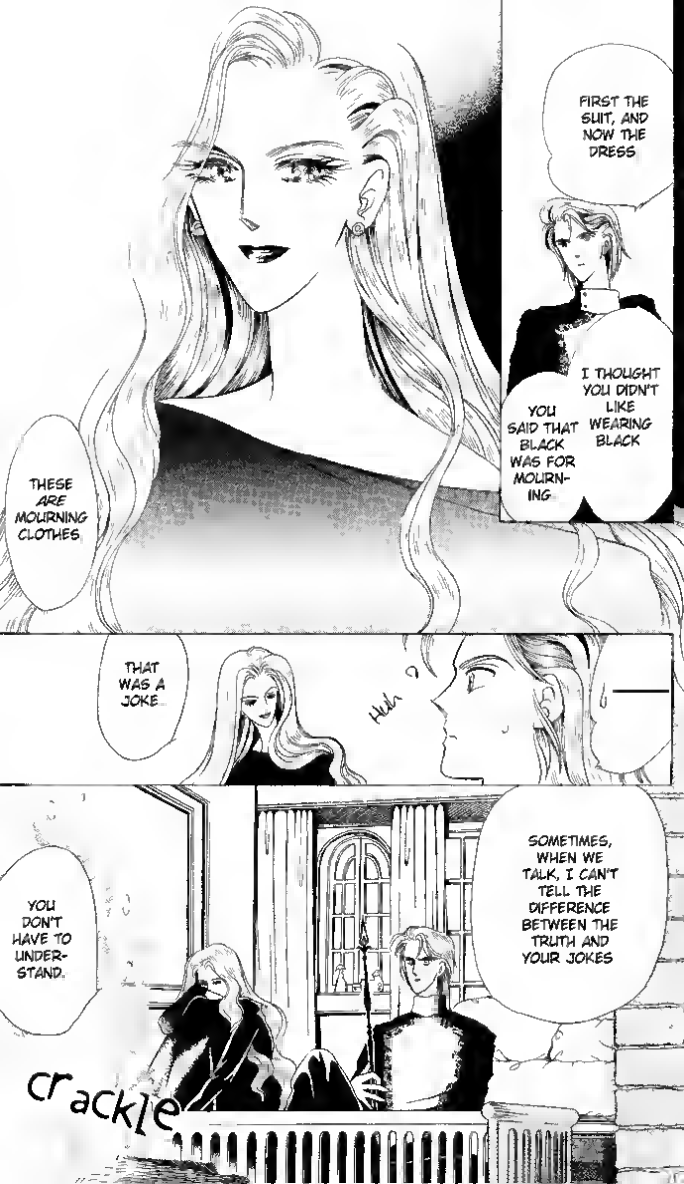
ONE OF THEM WILL ALWAYS HAVE TO GIVE IN WHEN THE OTHER ONE PUSHES
EVEN A MARRIAGE CAN'T LAST WHEN THE HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE TOO SIMILAR
THEY LAUGH, REJOICE, AND SUFFER PAIN OVER THE SAME THINGS.
BECAUSE OF THIS, THEY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE ...
BUT THAT ALSO MAKES THEM THE BEST AND WORST TYPE OF COUPLE
THEY'LL BOTH LOVE AND HURT EACH OTHER.
WHENEVER THEY MEET ..

THEY SUIT YOU QUITE WELL.
ROSE-MARY!
I BOR-ROWED SOME OF KE-VIN'S CLOTHES
Woof
Woof
I CAN'T BELIEVE KEVIN'S RAISING A DOG.
HE LOOKS SO PEACE-FUL.
THAT'S CLIFF.
startled
PUPPIES ARE SO UGLY WHEN THEY'RE STILL GROWING.
COME HERE, I'LL PET YOU.
gotcha!
Alick
KYA!
PLEASE DO NOT BULLY SMALL LIVING CREATURES.


WHAT? ARE YOU COMPLAINING?
YOU DAMN DUCK.
YOU HUMAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
BAKING A PIE FOR DESSERT.
HOW CAN YOU HOLD ANTHING WITH THESE WINGS!?
WOW
flap flap
I'M HOME. I'VE BROUGHT YOUR LUGGAGE.
yeah
WELCOME BACK, KEVIN

It must be the apocalypse
KEVIN'S CLOTHING SMELLS LIKE TOBACCO!
THANK GOODNESS, I CAN FINALLY CHANGE
ESMERALDA IS COOKING!?
THUD THUD
Take my luggage upstairs
THEN REMOVE THEM FROM THE FIRE AND SLOWLY ADD SOME BUTTER AND LEMON
ROSEMARY, THE CRANBERRIES ARE DONE
OOPS!
DID YOU ALREADY ADD THE RUM?
THIS IS A NICE SCENE...
WE'RE GOING TO BAKE THIS AND WHEN IT'S DONE COOLING, WE WILL DECORATE IT WITH WHIPPED CREAM

Ladies ONLY
DON'T JUST STAND THERE DAYDREAMING! YOU'RE BEING A NUISANCE!
MASTER KEVIN, THE KITCHEN IS OFF LIMITS!
LET'S HAVE SOME SCONES AND TEA WITH CREAM!
NOW,
Fine. Come on CLIFF us guys are going to play ball then
I'm can't swim fetch with anything!
AYYAAA
WOOF WOOF


FIRST THE SUIT, AND NOW THE DRESS
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE WEARING BLACK
YOU SAID THAT BLACK WAS FOR MOURNING
THESE ARE MOURNING CLOTHES.
THAT WAS A JOKE.
Huh?
SOMETIMES, WHEN WE TALK, I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TRUTH AND YOUR JOKES
YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND.
crackle

MAKE CHICKEN FOR DINNER.
ROSEMARY, I'M ON A DIET SO...
ESMERALDA!
I WON'T NEVER
MASTER KEVIN ORDERED THE TURKEY FROM A RESTAURANT IN TOWN.
ROSEMARY, YOU CAN COOK POULTRY?
Kyaa!
Don't think about it!
I FELT BAD JUST ASKING FOR TURKEY LAST THANKS-GIVING AND CHRISTMAS!
FISH WILL BE FINE TONIGHT.
hates fish
UGH
daddy
YOUR REACTIONS ARE SO HONEST.
IT MAKES ME WANT TO KEEP TEASING YOU

I'LL HELP! COOKING IS LIKE DOING SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS!
IT'S FUN!
LET'S COOK IT CHINESE STYLE SO MASTER KEVIN CAN EAT IT TOO
SHUT UP
OH NO, KEVIN! YOU STILL CAN'T EAT FISH?
PLEASE ONLY ADD IT TO MASTER KEVIN'S PLATE
IT'S USELESS 'CAUSE I'LL JUST ADD POISON
GUESS I'LL BE NEEDING MY STO-MACHACHE MEDICINE
I WISH THAT TIME WOULD STOP

...JUST LIKE A FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH.
SO WE COULD STAY THIS WAY FOREVER...
ESMERALDA?
DASH
UGH
ZAAA...
COUGH
KA-CHA

ARE YOU
..PREGNANT?
Aaaaaa...
MISS ESME-RALDA?
AM I RIGHT,

I'M ALMOST THREE MONTHS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
GRAB
THE FATHER IS...
SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW, KEVIN
...ANYTHING.
DOES YOUR PARTNER KNOW?
HE DOESN'T KNOW

DO YOU LOVE HIM?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM!
IT'S USE-LESS.
IT'S OKAY! JUST LEAVE HER ALONE
ROSE-MARY!
BUT, MS. ESME-RALDA, WHAT WILL YOU-
IT'S HER PROB-LEM.
RIGHT NOW, SHE NEEDS SOME TIME TO THINK.

EVEN THOUGH MASTER KEVIN SAID THAT, HIS HANDS WERE TREMBLING .

MASTER KEVIN,
ARE YOU SURE?
SIGH...
LET ME GET SOME REST.
IS IT TRULY ALL RIGHT TO LET HER DEAL WITH IT HERSELF?

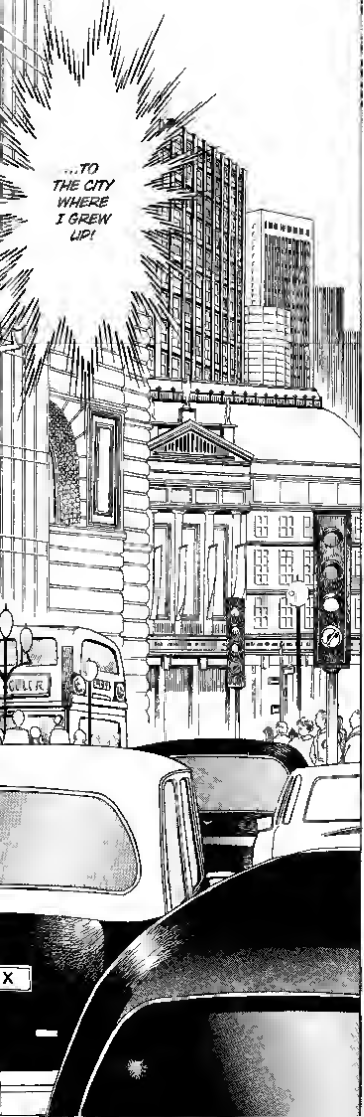
HOW MANY DRUNKEN NIGHTS DID I SPEND...
TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT HER?
TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED.
WHO COULD IT BE?
THE FATHER IS SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW.
THE WARM FEELING I SHOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT.
I CAN FEEL IT COMING BACK.
I CAN FEEL MYSELF FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER AGAIN...!
WHY NOW!?

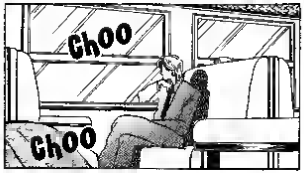
HOW IS SHE?
MORNING, ROSEMARY.
SHE HAS NOT WOKEN UP YET.
KNOCK
PRIN- CESS
YOUR MEAL.
IT'S BAD FOR YOUR BODY IF YOU DON'T EAT.
IF ONLY THAT WERE POSSIBLE
AREN'T YOU MAD AT ME?
YOU HATE ME, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT IT

ESME-RALDA!
WHEN I READ YOUR BOOK,
IT MADE ME WANT TO SEE YOU SO MUCH, AND-
I CAN'T HELP IT...
THE FIRST TIME WE MET?
DO YOU REMEM-BER?
I WAS SUCH A BIG FAN OF YOUR NOVELS, I HAD MY AGENCY PRESSURE YOUR PUBLICATION COMPANY
YOU WERE FORCED TO MAKE A PUBLIC APPEAR-ANCE EVEN THOUGH YOU HATED THE MEDIA
AS I RE-CALL...
IT WAS FOR A MAGA-ZINE
HEY, KEVIN, WOULD YOU CRY
IF I DIED?

YOUR BOOK WON THE COMPANY'S PRESTIGIOUS GOLDEN PRESS AWARD!
KEVIN,
IT'S SOMEONE FROM THE BLACK-WELL COMPANY.
MASTER KEVIN, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL.
BLACK-WELL!?
?
DON'T KNOW THEM.
I HAVE AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO'S A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE COMPANY.
I HEARD IT DIRECTLY FROM HIM, SO THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
THE EQUIVALENT OF THE ACADEMY AWARDS IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE?
GOLDEN PRESS AWARD!?

Please be here tomorrow if possible
But the award ceremony is the day after tomorrow
I apologize for the short notice
ARE YOU GOING?
NO MATTER WHAT?
EVEN IF...
...I ASK YOU NOT TO?
WELL THEN ROSEMARY!
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THINGS


...TO THE CITY WHERE I GREW UP!


Choo
Choo

Choo
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, ESMERALDA. WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF?
Choo

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY RETURNING

I JUST CHECKED IN, ROSEMARY
WHAT'S THIS?
A MESSAGE?
HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED?
It feels kinda weird talking to a dick on the phone
I'M LATE BECAUSE I HAD TO ATTEND A MEETING.
WHAT!?
"BLACKWELL COMPANY PRESIDENT, RICHARD G. BLACKWELL!?"
"LET'S HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER TOMORROW."
N-NO NOTHING
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MASTER KEVIN?

AND WHEN THE MAIN CHARACTER DIED OF AN ILLNESS
SHE WAS WATCHING A SOAP OPERA
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MISS ESMERALDA IS ACTING STRANGE
SHE CRIED!?
THESE ARE MOURNING CLOTHES
KEVIN, WOULD YOU CRY IF I DIED?
HELLO? MASTER KEVIN?
COULD IT BE!?

IS SHE ILL!?
Estimate
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
I'M RICHARD G BLACK-WELL

I HAVE TO RETURN HOME IMMEDIATELY.
THERE'S NO TIME FOR BREAK-FAST!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU, MR. FRED-WARD.
smile
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU .. FROM ESMERALDA.
DON'T TELL ME THIS MILD-MANNERED MAN IS ...
THIS MAN!?

TODAY, I CAME TO MEET YOU AS ESMERALDA'S LOVER,
AND NOT AS BLACK-WELL'S COMPANY PRESIDENT.
ESMERALDA'S LOVER!?
I READ YOUR BOOK BECAUSE ESMERALDA RECOM-MENDED IT.
SHE SAID IT WAS GREAT.
EH...?
SHE COMPLIMENTED MY BOOK?
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SELECTION OF THE AWARD WINNER.
liar
I WONDER IF HE KNOWS THAT ESMERALDA MIGHT BE ILL...

AND THAT SHE'S CARRYING HIS CHILD...?
THE TRUTH IS, I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER IN FOUR DAYS.
SHE EVEN MISSED HER FASHION SHOW.
EH!?
MAY I SPEAK HONESTLY TO YOU?
COULD SHE BE AT YOUR-
IT SEEMS
SHE FOUND OUT
IS THAT SO?
NO.

... ABOUT MY TERMINAL ILLNESS
THEN...
HE'S DYING ...!?
ESMERALDA ISN'T THE ONE WHO'S SICK?
I HAVE ABOUT ONE YEAR LEFT.
THREE YEARS AT THE MOST.
HOW... CAN YOU BE SO CALM ABOUT IT...?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE...
ESMERALDA SAID THE SAME THING...
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SMILING, RICHARD?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS FORGIVE MY SELFISHNESS?
SEE THERE YOU GO AGAIN IT'S LIKE YOU'RE COMPLETELY GIVING UP...

I JUST DON'T WANT TO WASTE THE TIME I HAVE LEFT.
I'M NOT GIVING UP.
...OR DENY MY LOVE FOR HER
NO.
WHEN I READ YOUR BOOK, IT MADE ME WANT TO SEE YOU SO MUCH.
ESMERALDA ONLY CAME TO SEE ME BECAUSE...
THAT'S A LIE!
clatter
SHE'S IN LOVE WITH THIS MAN!

MAKE ME A FOOL?
DOESN'T THAT...
EX-CUSE ME, BUT I HAVE TO GO HOME.
BUT THE AWARD CEREMONY WILL START SOON!
INSTEAD OF RECEIVING AN AWARD FROM YOU
THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE I MUST DO.
THE LONGEST RUNNING PRESENT
Mousetrap

WE'LL CELEBRATE WHEN MASTER KEVIN COMES HOME TOMOR-ROW
WHAT IS IT, CLIFF?
WOOF WOOF
MASTER KEVIN!?
WOOF WOOF

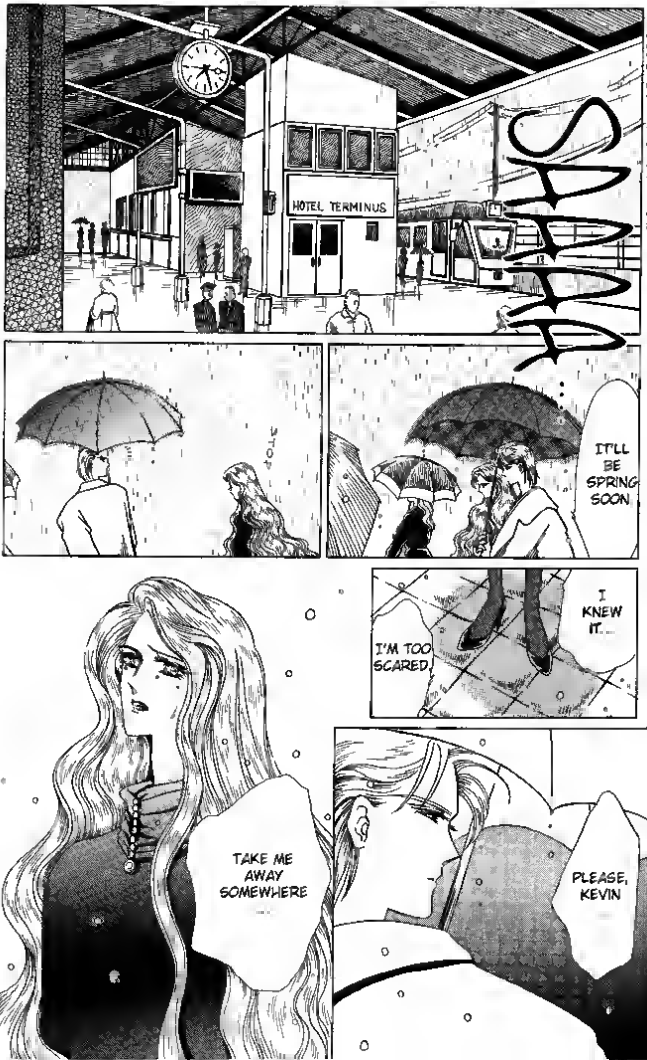
FROM RICHARD
I HEARD ABOUT EVERY-THING
RUSTLE
I SEE
SO YOU MET HIM
JUST AS I THOUGHT
I'M TAKING YOU TO THE TRAIN STATION TOMORROW
RUSTLE
COME, CLIFF, IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO TO BED
QQ
FLICKER

I'M NEVER GOING BACK!
NO! I WON'T GO BACK!
THAT I SHOULD JUST WATCH SILENTLY AS HE DIES!?
ARE YOU TELLING ME I SHOULD STAY WITH RICHARD UNTIL HE WITHERS AWAY?
BUT THEY WERE JUST TRYING TO CONSOLE US!
DESPITE THEIR DIAGNOSES!
THE DOCTORS TOLD US THERE ARE PATIENTS WHO LIVE ON FOR MANY YEARS,
...SO YOU CAME CHASING AFTER ME.
HE'S DYING, KEVIN!

WHAT CAN I DO?
EVEN THOUGH ALL YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE FOR HIM...
LISTEN CAREFULLY, KEVIN, I HAVE GOOD NEWS.
THAT DREAM...
HE ISN'T COMING.
KEVIN
IT ISN'T HIS TIME YET...!

YET SO DEAR
JUST LIKE MY DREAM ...
IT FEELS SO SAD ...
....AND PAINFUL...
DEAD.....
THE SNOW THAT FELL THAT NIGHT TURNED INTO RAIN THE NEXT MORNING

ARE YOU LEAVING?
THIS IS A TOKEN OF MY THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A BURDEN TO YOU
SHINE
I CAN'T ACCEPT SUCH AN EXPENSIVE GIFT!
PEARLS !?
I BOUGHT THESE PEARLS AFTER MY FIRST EXHIBIT...
I WANT YOU TO TAKE THEM
IN EXCHANGE
CAN I COME BACK AND VISIT?
ALWAYS
OF COURSE!
YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE

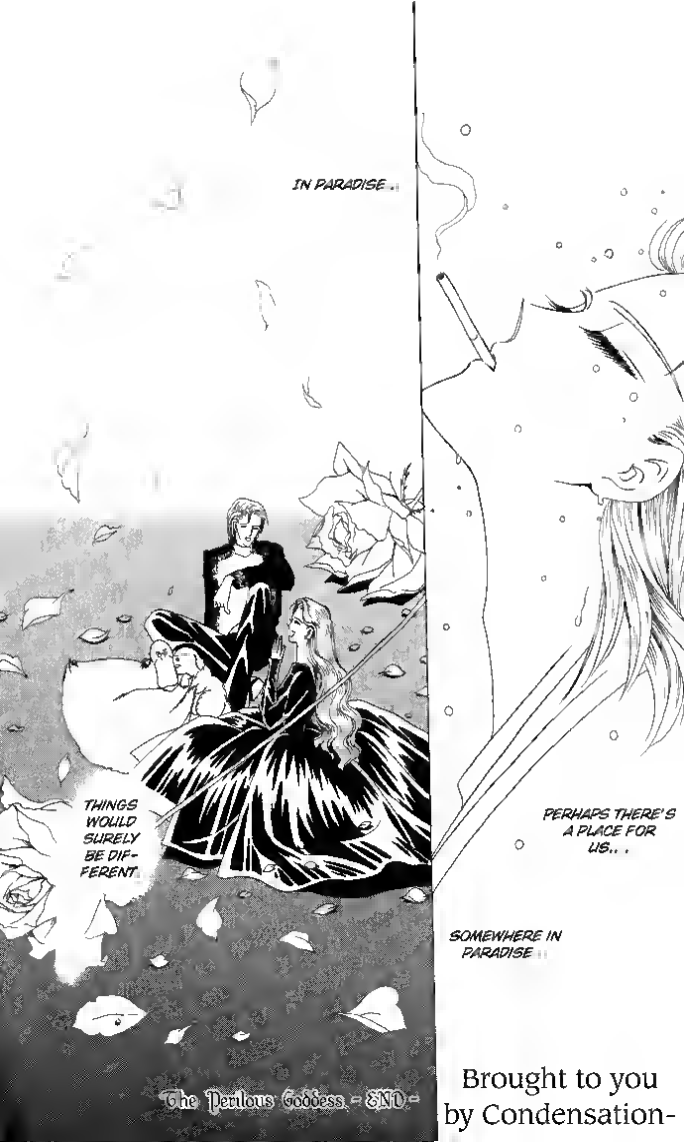

HOTEL TERMINUS
SADA
IT'LL BE SPRING SOON
I KNEW IT...
I'M TOO SCARED.
TAKE ME AWAY SOMEWHERE
PLEASE, KEVIN

SAAA....
EVEN IF IT WERE ONLY TEMP-ORARY,
YOU WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR IT.
AND I WOULD NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF EITHER
IF YOU STAYED WITH ME,
I WOULD
YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME, ESMERALDA.

...EVEN-TUALLY COME TO HATE YOU.
WE'D ONLY BE REPEATING THE SAME MISTAKE WE MADE THREE YEARS
LET'S PART WAYS HERE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I CAN GO..
BUT ACCEPTING IT IS PAINFUL...
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO..
I'M BEING SELFISH AGAIN
GOOD-BYE, ESME-RALDA.
KEVIN!
AND I HURT YOU AGAIN!

I'M SORRY, KEVIN.
SAAA...
SAAA...
SAAA—
SAAA—


IN PARADISE..
THINGS WOULD SURELY BE DIFFERENT
PERHAPS THERE'S A PLACE FOR US...
SOMEWHERE IN PARADISE...
The Perilous Goddess - END -

Brought to you by Condensation-

Condensation...celebrating
a year of scanlating...

b. September 16, 2004

Fredward-shi no Ahiru - "Mr. Fredward's Duck"

Chapter 05 Credits:

Mangaka: :Ushijima Keiko
Scanner: :Vanderguard
Translator: :Sandrine
Editor: :loveibelieverXO
QC'ers: :sucy & Vanderguard
Special Thanks to: :Elina for translation help and cover translation
Special Thanks to: :Adachi's Universe for giving us this project. :D

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#Condensation@irc.irchighway.net
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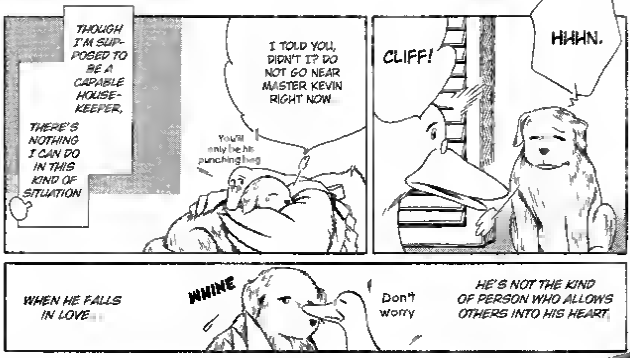
+chu+

THE GOLDEN PUPPY

SPRING IS COMING
SPRING IS COMING
SPRING IS COMING
HUMANS ASSOCIATE SPRING WITH GOOD THINGS
SO THEY GLADLY AWAIT ITS ARRIVAL.

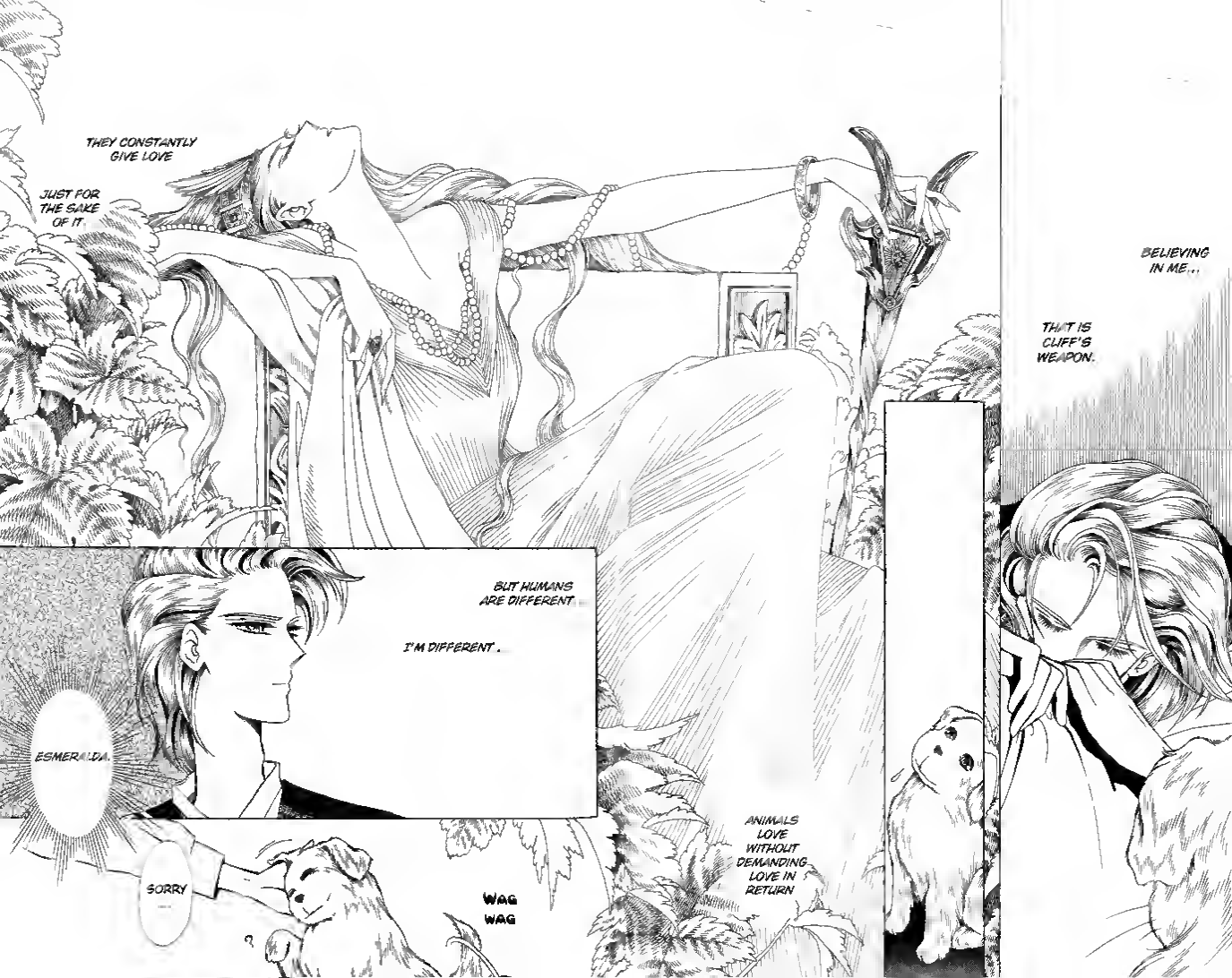
BUT. .
KYA-AA.
HEY, CLIFF! DON'T GET ON MY BED!!
MY EMPLOYER, MR. FRED-WARD, IS STILL FEEL-ING THE HARSH WINTER
Did some thing break again?
Goodness gracious!
GIVEN THAT THE SYLPH WHO SECRETLY RE-SIDED IN HIS HEART
HAS FLOWN AWAY FROM HIS SIDE
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY THAT SPRING HAS LEFT HIM ...

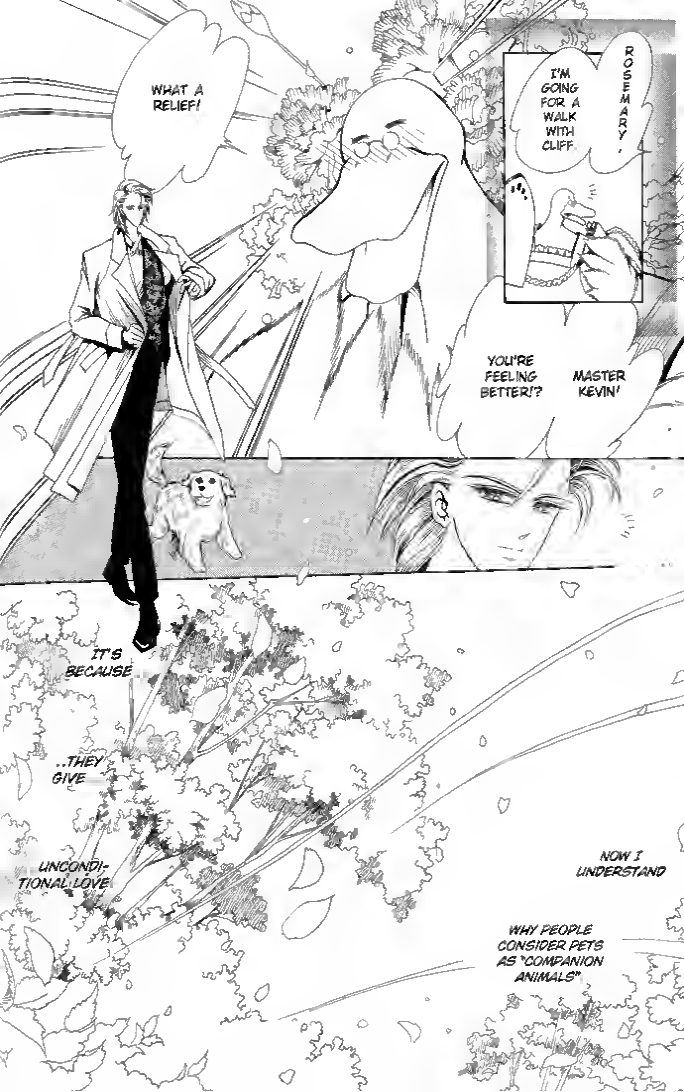
HHHHN.
CLATTER
I'm marrying Richard
--- Esmeralda ---


THOUGH I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A CAPABLE HOUSEKEEPER,
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? DO NOT GO NEAR MASTER KEVIN RIGHT NOW
You'll only be in the punching bag
CLIFF!
HHHN.
WHEN HE FALLS IN LOVE...
WHINE
Don't worry
HE'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO ALLOWS OTHERS INTO HIS HEART
...HE FALLS...
...COMPLETELY...
PERKS UP

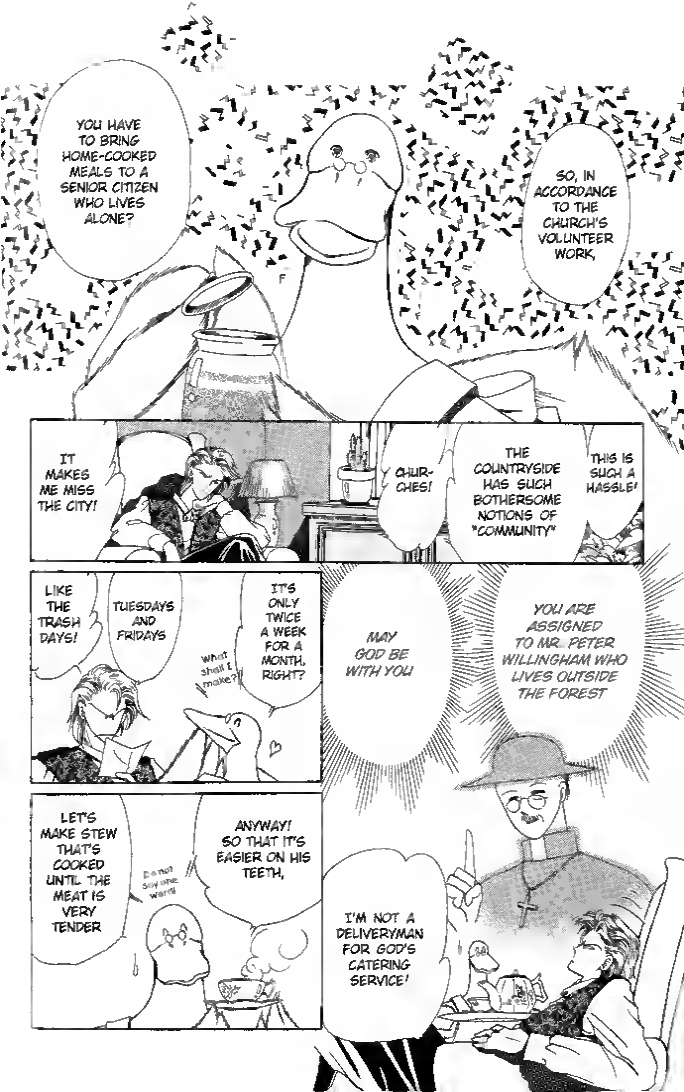
WHINE
DON'T COME IN HERE
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU!?
TREMBLE

I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I STRANGLED HIM THIS INSTANT...?
FLOP FLOP
EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT ME
HE HOLDS NO MISTRUST TOWARD ME AT ALL.
SO UNSUSPECTING LIKE THIS
I COULD CRUSH HIS INNOCENCE WITH A SINGLE TWIST
TRUSTING ME UNTIL THE END

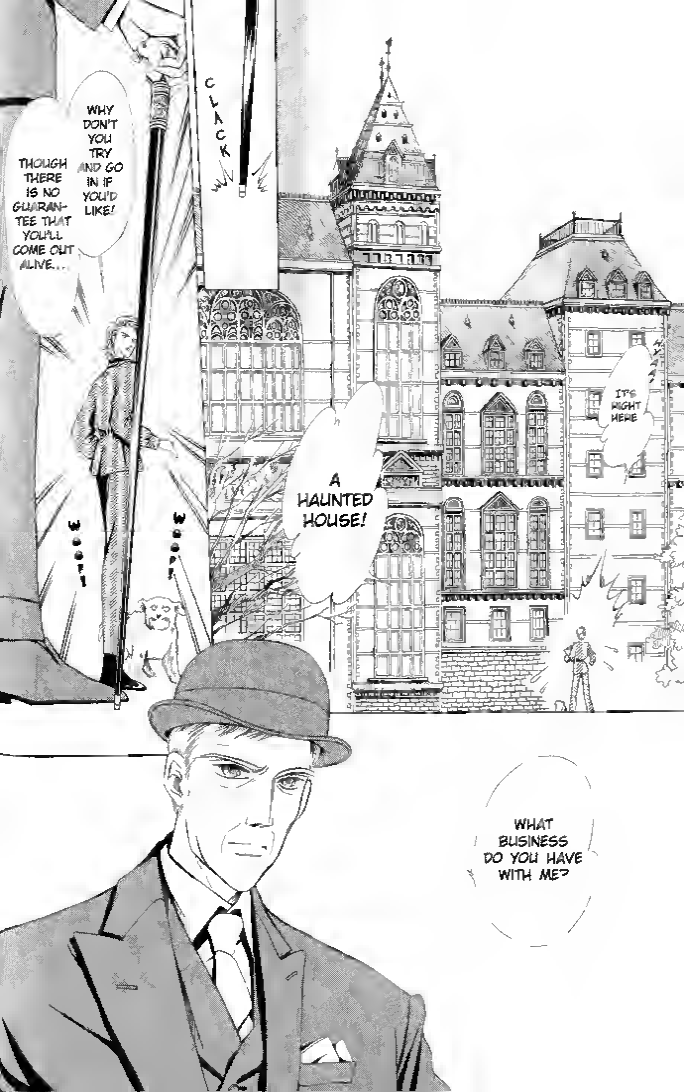

THEY CONSTANTLY GIVE LOVE
JUST FOR THE SAKE OF IT.
BUT HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT.
I'M DIFFERENT.
ESMERALDA.
SORRY...
WAG WAG
ANIMALS LOVE WITHOUT DEMANDING LOVE IN RETURN
BELIEVING IN ME...
THAT IS CLIFF'S WEAPON.


WHAT A RELIEF!
ROSEMARY,
I'M GOING FOR A WALK WITH CLIFF
YOU'RE FEELING BETTER!?
MASTER KEVIN!
IT'S BECAUSE
..THEY GIVE
UNCONDI-TIONAL LOVE
NOW I UNDERSTAND
WHY PEOPLE CONSIDER PETS AS "COMPANION ANIMALS"

CLIFF, BRING BACK THIS STICK, OKAY!?
WOOF
THERE!
MR. FREDWARD?
YES?
A PRIEST !?


YOU HAVE TO BRING HOME-COOKED MEALS TO A SENIOR CITIZEN WHO LIVES ALONE?
SO, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE CHURCH'S VOLUNTEER WORK,
IT MAKES ME MISS THE CITY!
CHUR-CHES!
THE COUNTRYSIDE HAS SUCH BOTHERSOME NOTIONS OF "COMMUNITY"
THIS IS SUCH A HASSLE!
LIKE THE TRASH DAYS!
TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS
IT'S ONLY TWICE A WEEK FOR A MONTH, RIGHT?
what shall I make?
MAY GOD BE WITH YOU
YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO MR. PETER WILLINGHAM WHO LIVES OUTSIDE THE FOREST
LET'S MAKE STEW THAT'S COOKED UNTIL THE MEAT IS VERY TENDER
Do not say one word!
ANYWAY! SO THAT IT'S EASIER ON HIS TEETH,
I'M NOT A DELIVERYMAN FOR GOD'S CATERING SERVICE!

THE GOLDEN PUPPY
YES, I COULD USE SOME EXERCISE
I guess close by or is it?
ARE YOU GOING THERE ON FOOT?
HE SEEMS ALL RIGHT AGAIN
THANK GOODNESS
Woof
DO YOU WANT TO COME, TOO?
IT'S READY, MASTER KEVIN!
LET'S SEE.. SO I COME OUT THROUGH THIS FOREST
PROFESSOR PETER WILLINGHAM
GUESS IT'S FURTHER THAN I EXPECTED
PROFESSOR !?


CLACK
WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND GO IN IF YOU'D LIKE!
THOUGH THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL COME OUT ALIVE...
WOOF!
WOOF!
A HAUNTED HOUSE!
IT'S RIGHT HERE
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH ME?

PROFESSOR WILLINGHAM?
WAS HE BORN IN THE VICTORIAN AGE?
SOMEHOW... HE LOOKS LIKE AN OLD MAN FROM ANOTHER TIME PERIOD
SENIOR CITIZENS WHO LIVE ALONE
OOH
YOU'RE A KIND MAN
LONELY
PERHAPS
WHAT DO YOU WANT !?
THIS IMAGE IS
THANK YOU
HOME-COOKING ?
DELICIOUS
KIN-SAN
KIN-SAN
I'M THE VOLUN-TEER FOR TODAY
I'M KEVIN FREDWARD
LET ME INTRO-DUCE MY-SELF
SMILE!
Still forcing a stiff smile
ANGRY
THAT TWO-BIT WRITER.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MOVED INTO THE MANSION BY THE LAKE
AAH!

SO YEARS FROM NOW, YOU MIGHT BECOME AN ANNOYING OLD MAN WHO LIVES ALONE JUST LIKE HIM
TREMBLE
Bear with it Kevin!
THAT'S TRUE, BUT
DON'T NEED 'EM. TAKE 'EM BACK WITH YOU
IS THAT YOUR PUPPY?
YOU'RE BRINGING DONATIONS FROM THAT LOT OF CHURCH WOMEN WHO HAVE TOO MUCH FREE TIME RIGHT?
HMM
GOLDEN RETRIEVER, RIGHT?
SHE DIDN'T EVEN TRIM THE BEEF FAT THAT'S NOT VERY HEALTHY
DOESN'T HAVE MUCH SKILL, DOES SHE?
MY HOUSE-KEEPER
LOOK BECAUSE THE STEW GOT COLD IT'S COVERED WITH LARD NOW!
TREATING ME LIKE AN OLD MAN!
PFFT
WHAT DID YOU BRING? STEW, HUH?
SNIFF!
CLANK
WHO MADE IT?

I'M NEW HERE AND DON'T KNOW THE LOCALS SO THEY ASSIGNED ME TO THE MOST UNPLEASANT PERSON ON PURPOSE...!
THOSE DIRTY
THOSE CHURCH PEOPLE!
ROSEMARY!?
NOT THAT I'M BAD-MOUTHING ANYONE, BUT YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND GET RID OF SUCH A CLUMSY HOUSEKEEPER!
SWISH
CLANK
PROFESSOR!
FROM NOW ON, DON'T CALL ME
CLANK
I WILL NOT COME BACK HERE EVEN IF THEY ASK ME TO!

STAB
GULP
WHAT DID YOU SAY...!?
GROARRR
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT HOUSE!
EEEKK
NO.. I WASN'T THE ONE WHO SAID IT !!!
IF HE MAKES FUN OF THE HOUSE-KEEPER,
THEN HE'S MAKING FUN OF YOU AS WELL SINCE YOU'RE MY EMPLOYER!!
Who would make fun of a duck like this one?

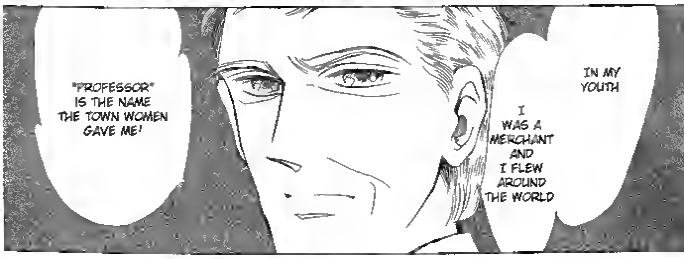
ROSEMARY ~~ I'M STARV ING
DIN... NER!
Beef jelly huh? Don't want any Too much gelatin in it
Catering service
THUS, THE FLAMES OF WAR WERE IGNITED BETWEEN ROSEMARY AND THE PROFESSOR
Beef pudding? Don't want it! The soup's burned!
Catering service
DEEP BURNING...
My arm is twitching.
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT
This time let's change the kind of food!
BUT HE HAS GOURMET TASTE!
MASTER KEVIN IS CONTENT JUST EATING SOMETHING TASTY,
JUST LEAVE THAT OLD MAN ALONE!
I REALIZED THEN THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS... WHETHER LIGHTING STRIKES AND A STORM BREAKS WHETHER I LOSE MY TEMPER AND SNAP AT CLIFF OR FORGET MYSELF IN ANY WAY... I CAN ALWAYS TURN TO ROSEMARY.
SHE HAS BECOME THE CENTER OF THIS HOUSEHOLD AND WE ALL REVOLVE AROUND HER!
There are still five more Tuesdays and Fridays I'll die of starvat on before then
Don't cry I'll share my food with you

Woof woof
PEEK
OH, YOU'VE COME LITTLE ONE
IS IT THAT TIME ALREADY?
YOUR MASTER IS VERY PERSISTENT!
Ahem!
STARE
I SEE. I SEE. HE CAME AGAIN

I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO PUT UP WITH IT
EITHER YOUR HOUSE-KEEPER HAS NOTHING ELSE TO DO
OR SHE MUST HAVE NERVES OF STEEL
SMILE
TODAY, IT'S CREAM PIE
OH!
STARE
HUH
AHEM
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP OF TEA TO DRINK WITH THIS?
NOT THAT I'M INSISTING OR ANYTHING
I GET IT
PREFERS SWEETS
RATHER THAN MEALS, THIS OLD MAN...
POUR

YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD DO THE WORK
WHY AM I POURING THE TEA WHEN TIM THE GUEST!?
Woof
I HAVE A BONE FOR THE LITTLE ONE, TOO
DO YOU LIKE DOGS?
PETS ARE MIRRORS THAT REFLECT THEIR OWNERS
IF YOU LOOK AT A PERSON'S PET, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF PERSON THE OWNER IS
IF YOU LOOK AT CLIFF, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ME...!?
GOBBLE
CHEW
Hey, Pierre
HE LOOKS STARVED

PROFES-
SOR,
YOU
LIKE
HUNTING?
LET ME
TELL YOU


IN MY
YOUTH
I
WAS A
MERCHANT
AND
I FLEW
AROUND
THE WORLD
"PROFESSOR"
IS THE NAME
THE TOWN WOMEN
GAVE ME!

THE TEA YOU POURED TASTES HORRIBLE!
NOISY GRAMPS
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT!!
BY THE WAY PROFESSOR!
AH! IT'S "PROFESSOR" BECAUSE YOU'RE GRUMPY, STUBBORN, AND HAVE A SCOWLING FACE!
QUIET!
BINGO!
I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
BUT, I GUESS ..
BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT, I ONLY HAVE TO BE HIS COMPANION FOR ONE MONTH

WOULD YOU LISTEN TO THIS? HE MADE ME POUR THE TEA.
YOU CAME HOME LATE TODAY
DID YOU HAVE TEA WITH HIM?
BUT SURELY THAT MADE HIM MORE DELIGHTED?
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE THAT PRESSURING HIM TO SEE ME
IS ACTUALLY GOOD FOR HIM.
DON'T KNOW TRUTH IS ...
I REALLY HATE IMPOSING ON OTHER PEOPLE AND I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN OTHERS IMPOSE ON ME

IN OTHER WORDS
ALTHOUGH THE PROFESSOR NEEDS YOUR HELP, YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE
EVEN SO, YOU PRETEND TO BE KIND AND FRIENDLY ANYWAY
THAT MAKES YOUR HEART ACHE. RIGHT?
I'M SURE HE'S HAPPY
IS HE?
NOBODY SAID THAT!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT

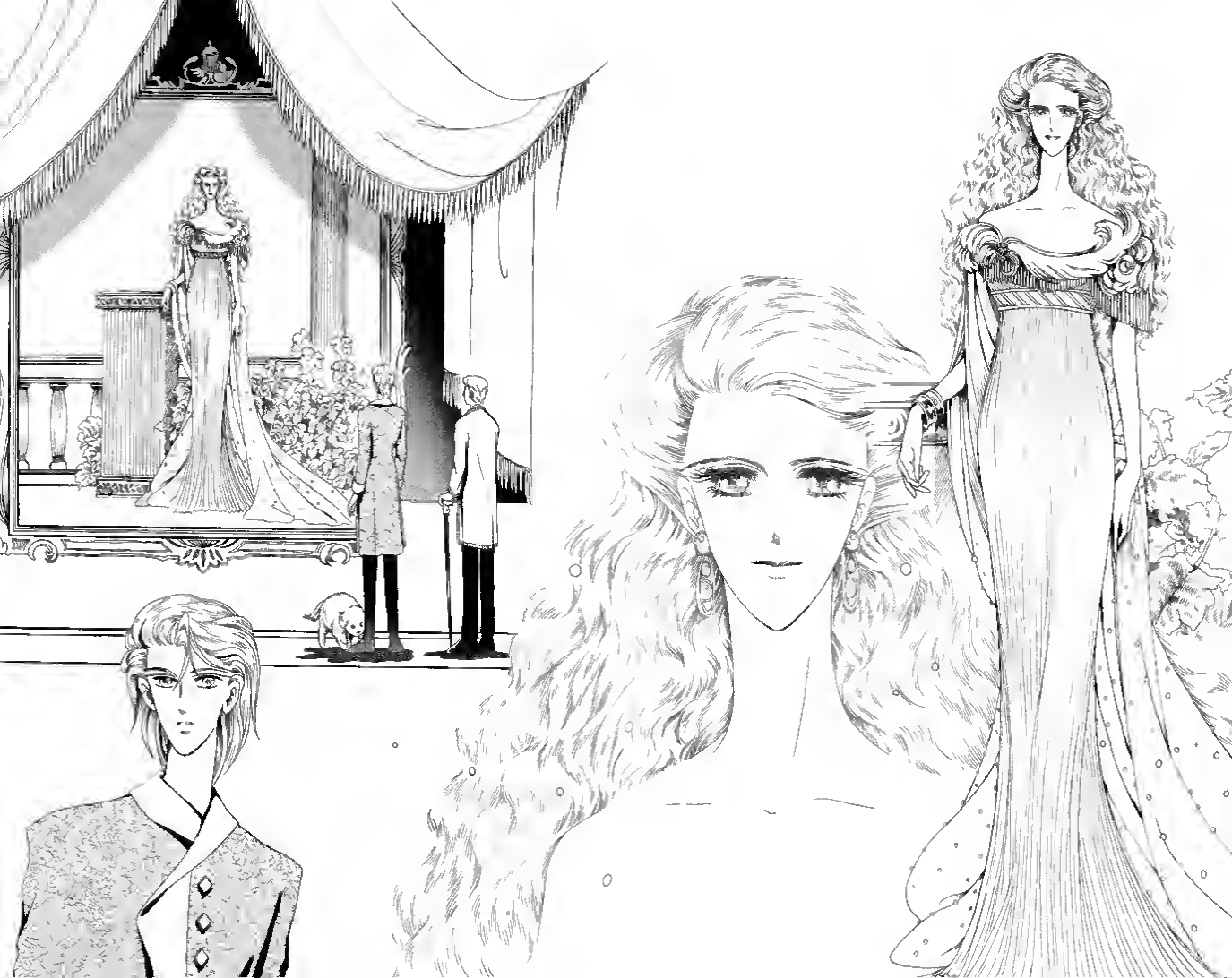
SAUL KADAFI
is forever
The Defeat of The
WHY DID YOU COME AGAIN?
YOU SEE?
I GUESS WE'RE BOTH FOOLS SINCE WE CAN'T OPPOSE THE WOMEN CARRYING ON SUCH A NOBLE MISSION.
FUFU
You're not the only one
I HAVE TO ENDURE THESE TWO WEEKS, TOO!
BECAUSE OF YOU I CAN'T GO OUT ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY AFTERNOONS!
BUT I'M BUSY ENOUGH AS IT IS
YOU PEOPLE THINK THAT I'M A HELPLESS OLD MAN WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING,
THOUGH I'M CONTINUALLY INSULTED I KEEP FORCING MYSELF TO BE FRIENDLY TOWARD HIM
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING!?
Wonder if Rosemary has affected me with her busybody attitude

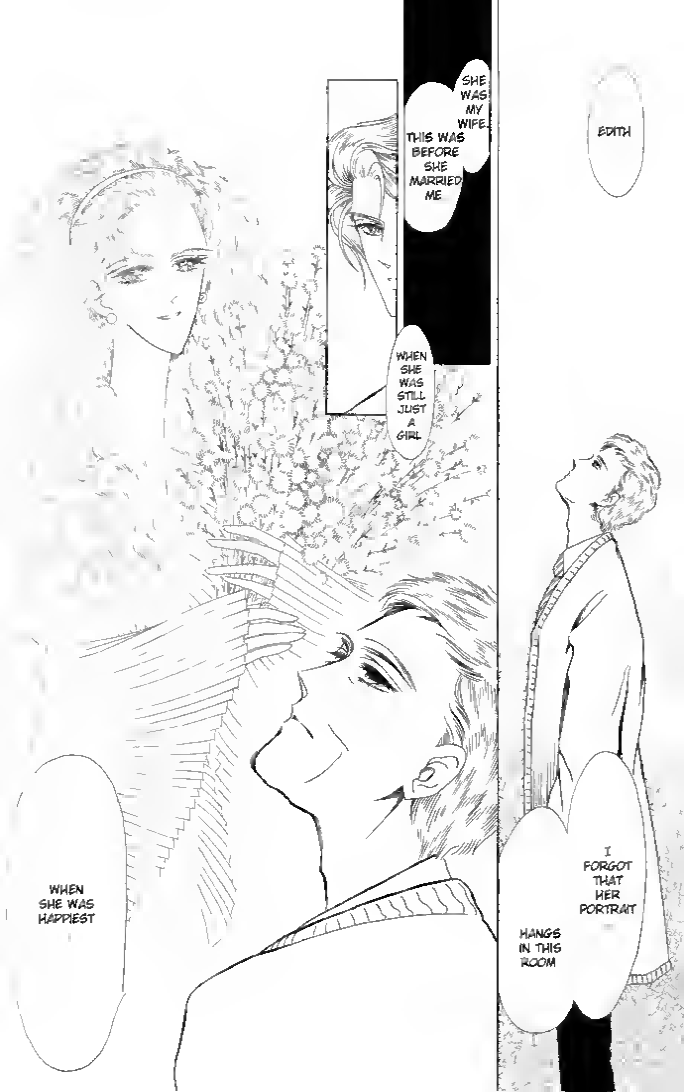
ACROSS VARIOUS LANDS AND SEAS, THROUGH HOT DESERT WINDS, AND INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES
I SAW PALACES THAT SHOOK ON THE VERY GROUND WHICH THEY STOOD
AND MET WOMEN CLOAKED IN DARK SHADOWS
WHAT'S A FINE YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU DOING IN A COUNTRY TOWN LIKE THIS ANYWAY?
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I TRAVELED AROUND THE WORLD!
AND THEN WHAT?
YOU BECAME OLD AND CLOSED OFF YOUR HEART. NOW YOU'RE WASTING THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

MAYBE
WHEN THAT WATCH WAS STILL NEW AND FIT SNUGLY ON HIS WRIST...
HE WAS PROBABLY A BROAD-SHOULDERED MAN...
...WITH SUCH STRONG ARMS...
CLICK
YOU'RE A STRAIGHT-FORWARD CHAP.
...THAT HE COULD HAVE CONQUERED LIONS AND TIGERS.
BUT NOW
NOW...

WHAT A HUGE MANSION
WHILE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK AS A CHILD ONCE,
THEY COULDN'T FIND ME AT ALL.
FUFU.
HEEEY, CLIFF!
TIME TO GO HOME!

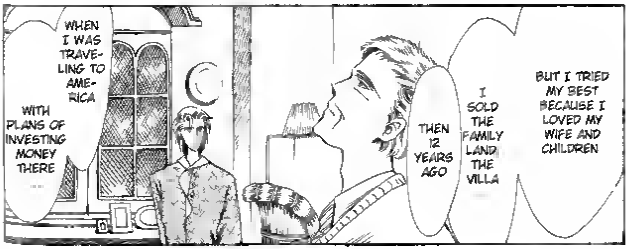
IT USED TO BE CROWDED WITH MY FAMILY AND STAFF.
BUT NOW IT'S EMPTY.
THE ENDEARING COBWEBS ON THE SHELVES
AND THE SHADOWS FALLING ON THE OLD FURNITURE
HOW CAN I LEAVE?
THIS IS THE HOUSE I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN.
YOU CAN LIVE HERE ALL BY YOURSELF, HUH? AREN'T YOU SCARED?
BOOL!
DON'T RUN AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE.
LET'S GO HOME
You've gotten heavy
UP YOU GO




EDITH
SHE WAS MY WIFE.
THIS WAS BEFORE SHE MARRIED ME
WHEN SHE WAS STILL JUST A GIRL
I FORGOT THAT HER PORTRAIT HANGS IN THIS ROOM
WHEN SHE WAS HAPPIEST

STILL
FOR ME AS THE BREAD-WINNER,
HOME WAS WHERE MY WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE AND IT SERVED AS MY RESTING PLACE
I LOST MY FATHER EARLY IN LIFE
AND INHERITED HIS COMPANY WHEN I WAS STILL A YOUTH
THEN I MARRIED EDITH
I YEARNED FOR FREEDOM
I STILL WANTED TO BE A KID
TO ME, MARRIAGE WAS THE SAME THING AS BEING CHAINED
I THOUGHT I COULD ENTRUST EDITH WITH THE CHILDREN, WHO GREW BIGGER EVERY TIME I SAW THEM
I TRAVELED AROUND THE WORLD USING "WORK" AS MY EXCUSE,
TO THE EXTENT THAT I ONLY VISITED MY FAMILY EVERY SIX MONTHS

AND SOMETHING CHANGED.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT HAPPENED
DEEP LINES BECAME ETCHED INTO HER FACE
I LOVED HER.
EDITH WHO ALWAYS GREETED ME WITH A SMILE.
MY COMPANY STARTED TO DECLINE.
MY WIFE DIDN'T SMILE ANYMORE
AND THE CHILDREN LEFT THE HOUSE.

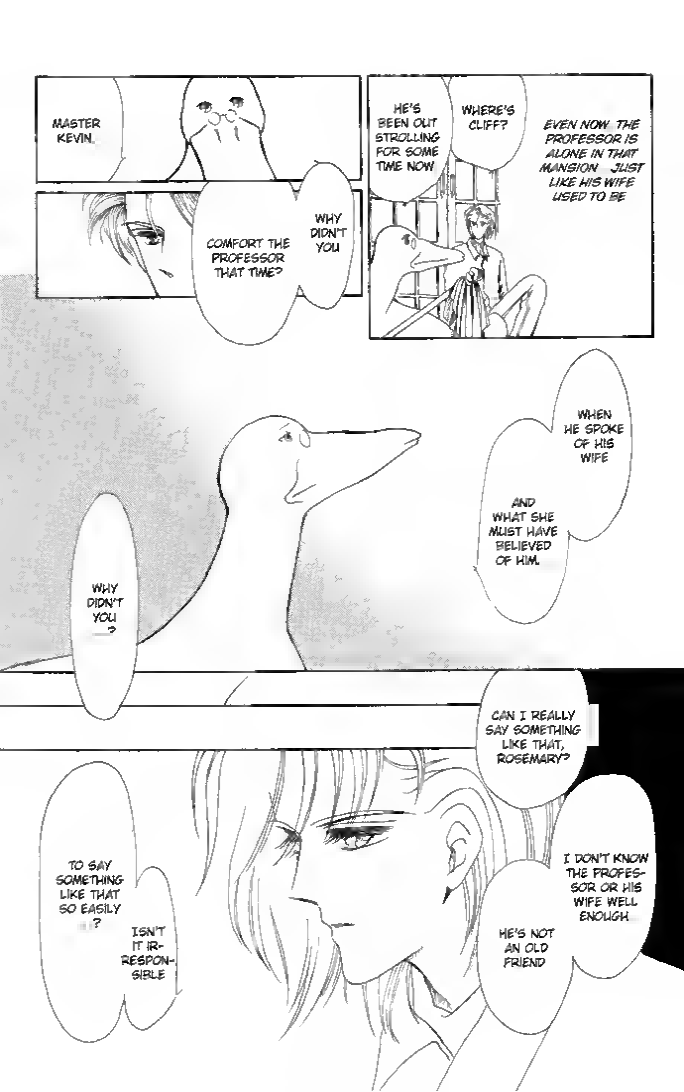

WHEN I WAS TRAVELING TO AMERICA
WITH PLANS OF INVESTING MONEY THERE
THEN 12 YEARS AGO
I SOLD THE FAMILY LAND THE VILLA
BUT I TRIED MY BEST BECAUSE I LOVED MY WIFE AND CHILDREN

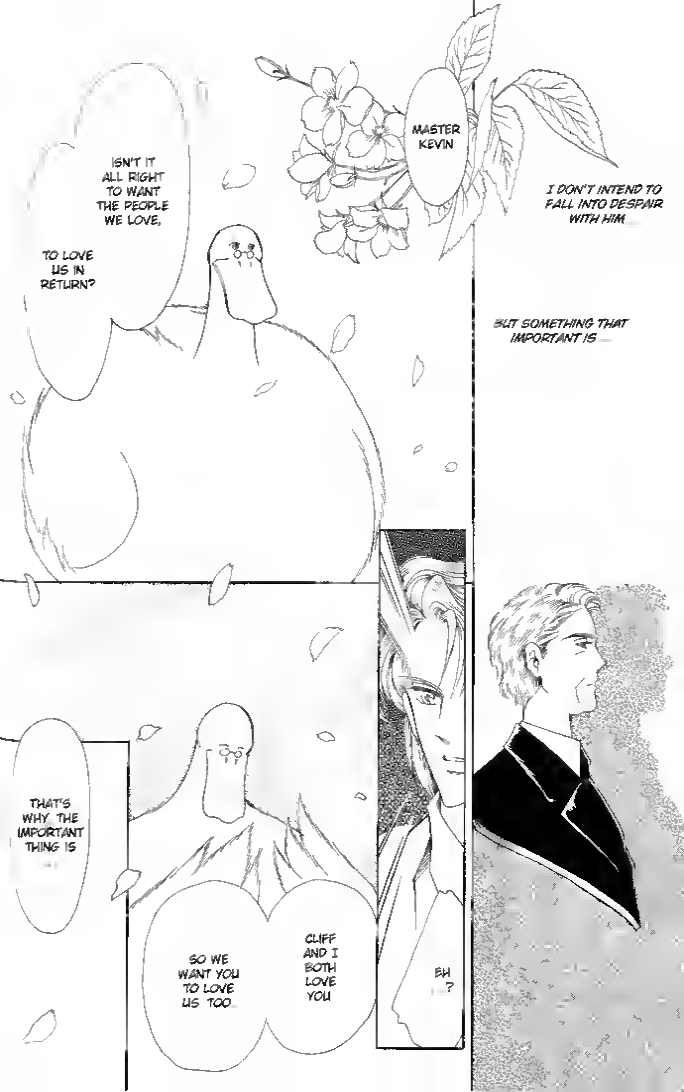
EDITH FELL ILL IN THIS HOUSE ...
IN THIS ROOM ...
I WASN'T EVEN ABLE TO SEE HER OFF.
FATHER, YOU WERE ONLY SATISFIED WHEN MOTHER WAS LEFT ALONE
OR WHEN SHE WAS SUFFERING !!
WHAT SHOCKED ME WASN'T THE FACT THAT I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HER BEFORE SHE DIED.

NOT EVEN ONCE
WE WERE MARRIED 40 YEARS
NEVER CALLED MY NAME
SHE
DURING THE TWO DAYS BETWEEN EDITH'S COLLAPSE AND HER DEATH
I SNATCHED AWAY HER FREEDOM, HER SPIRIT, AND HER VERY LIFE!
TO MY EMBARRASSMENT I DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL THAT MOMENT.
WHERE THE HUSBAND IS A SHIP AND THE WIFE IS HIS HARBOR
TO SERVE MY SELFISH EGO, I PLACED MYSELF IN THE TRADITIONAL MALE ROLE LIKE THE ACTORS IN OLD MOVIES

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT EDITH LOVED ME
I NEVER EVEN QUESTIONED IT!
JUST LIKE I LOVED HER...

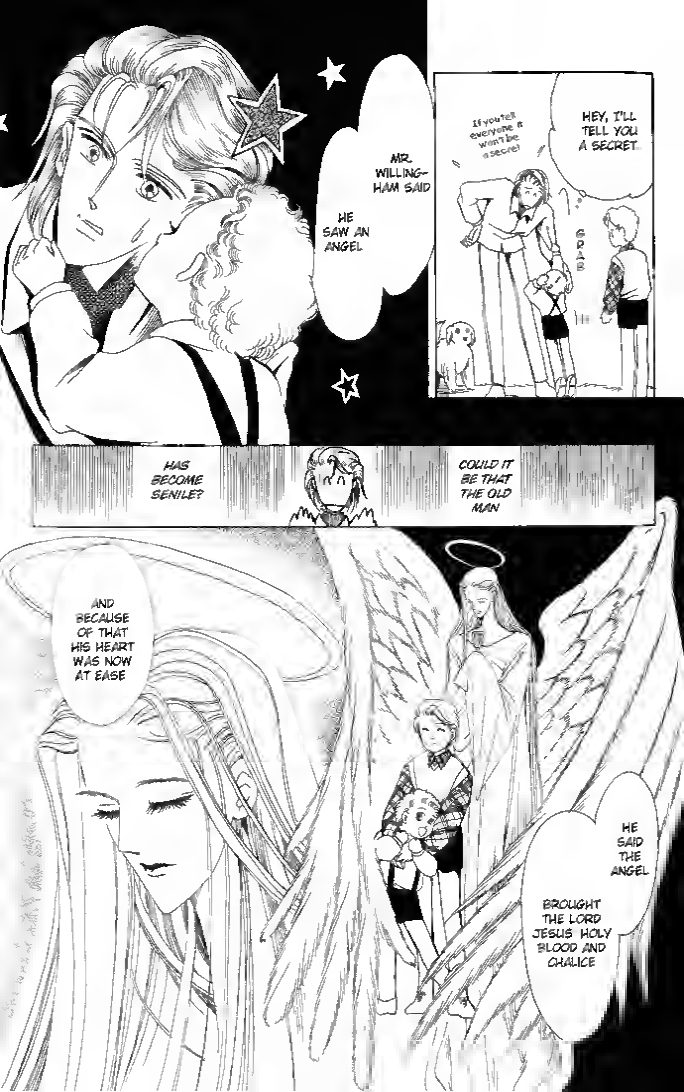
FOR SOME REASON, THE DAYS FEEL LONGER NOW THAT I DON'T HAVE TO HEAR THE PROFESSOR CRITICIZE MY COOKING
SIGH
MY DUTY WAS DONE
AFTER THAT, THE DAYS PASSED BY AND A NEW MONTH ARRIVED


MASTER KEVIN.
WHY DIDN'T YOU COMFORT THE PROFESSOR THAT TIME?
HE'S BEEN OUT STROLLING FOR SOME TIME NOW
WHERE'S CLIFF?
EVEN NOW, THE PROFESSOR IS ALONE IN THAT MANSION JUST LIKE HIS WIFE USED TO BE
WHEN HE SPOKE OF HIS WIFE
AND WHAT SHE MUST HAVE BELIEVED OF HIM.
WHY DIDN'T YOU ...?
CAN I REALLY SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ROSEMARY?
I DON'T KNOW THE PROFESSOR OR HIS WIFE WELL ENOUGH.
HE'S NOT AN OLD FRIEND
TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT SO EASILY ...?
ISN'T IT IRRESPONSIBLE


MASTER KEVIN
I DON'T INTEND TO FALL INTO DESPAIR WITH HIM...
BUT SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT IS...
ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT TO WANT THE PEOPLE WE LOVE,
TO LOVE US IN RETURN?
EH...?
CLIFF AND I BOTH LOVE YOU
SO WE WANT YOU TO LOVE US TOO...
THAT'S WHY THE IMPORTANT THING IS...

NOT JUST DOING WHAT WE CAN FOR THE PERSON,
BUT ALSO THINKING ABOUT
WHAT THAT PERSON WANTS US TO DO
Woof woof
KYAA AHAHA
CLIFF?

KYAHAHA
CLIFF!
IS THAT DOG YOURS?
WHO ARE THESE KIDS ?
TO THE PROFESSOR'S MANSION ?
WE DO
WE DELIVER GOODS
TO MR WILLING-HAM'S HOUSE ONCE A WEEK
AH, THESE ARE THE GENERAL STORE-KEEPER'S KIDS
HE USUALLY DOESN'T EVEN GIVE US TIPS,
BUT TODAY HE TOLD US A LITTLE STORY
We are orphans!
That's what mom is!


HEY, I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET.
If you tell everyone it won't be a secret
GRAB
MR. WILLINGHAM SAID
HE SAW AN ANGEL
HAS BECOME SENILE?
COULD IT BE THAT THE OLD MAN
AND BECAUSE OF THAT HIS HEART WAS NOW AT EASE
HE SAID THE ANGEL
BROUGHT THE LORD JESUS HOLY BLOOD AND CHALICE

THE ANGEL BROUGHT ALONG A GOLDEN PUPPY
AND...
A GOLDEN PUPPY!?
AFTER THAT, WE FOUND THIS GOLDEN PUPPY IN FRONT OF MR. WILLINGHAM'S GATE
CLIFF WENT TO THE PROFESSOR'S HOUSE BY HIMSELF...!?
ROSEMARY!
CAN I PET HIM?
SURE! GO AHEAD

THEN SHALL I BAKE A CAKE OR SOMETHING?
NOW?
I'M GOING TO THE PROFESSOR'S!
GRIMMARY
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING!
NO, IT'S OKAY!
LET'S GO CLIFF!
I'M JUST GOING FOR A LITTLE CHAT!

MASTER KEVIN,
SOMETIMES WHEN I SEE YOU, I GET SO IMPATIENT.
HUMANS ARE SO FRAGILE AND AFRAID.
WHAT FAINT-HEARTED CREATURES YOU ARE.
The Golden Puppy *Sin*
Brought to you by Condensation...

Condensation...celebrating
a year of scanlating...

b. September 16, 2004

Fredward-shi no Ahiru - "Mr. Fredward's Duck"

Chapter 01 Credits:

Mangaka: :Ushijima Keiko
Scanner: :Kurai-chan
Translator: :Sandrine
Editor: :Xenthia
QC'ers: :sucy & Vanderguard
Special Thanks to: :fencer_X for translation help

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#Condensation@irc.irchighway.net
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Condensation

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Listening to the Voice of the Sea

THIS FEELS GREAT!
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME I TOOK A TRIP?
HOW WONDER-FUL!

IT WAS VERY SUDDEN OF MASTER KEVIN TO RENT A BEACH COTTAGE
AND TAKE US ON VACATION!
It's just like rain!
CLIFF, THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME VISITING THE SEA, ISN'T IT?

*sfx: frustrated

どんより

YOU'RE RENTING THIS COTTAGE FOR THREE MONTHS, RIGHT?
THE COTTAGE HAS A PRIVATE BEACH BEHIND IT,
AND THERE'S A RENTAL CAR IN THE GARAGE.
WHAT!? WRITER'S BLOCK!?
SOUNDS YEAH
IT'S FINALLY COME TO THIS ...
IT'S AN APPRO-PRIATE PLACE
FOR AN AUTHOR TO DO HIS WORK.
IT'S JUST AS THE PROFESSOR SAID A MONTH AGO.

OF COURSE, IT'S HOPELESS SINCE YOU HAVE NO TALENT AND YOU'RE ONLY WRITING TO WIN ANOTHER AWARD.
How dare you say that while eating my cake!
Give it back!
WELL, NO NEED TO BLOW A GASKET.
ARGH!
THIS IS MY LIFE ON THE LINE!
WHAT YOU NEED IS TO CHANGE YOUR WAY OF THINKING.
RELAX AND LIGHTEN UP A BIT.
DON'T GET STUCK IN ONE PLACE. GO AND PLAY WITH YOUR MONEY WHILE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
FRANKLY, I WAS SURPRISED.
I REMEMBER...
ESMERALDA SAID THE SAME THING TO ME
LONG AGO...

BUY SOME JEWELRY OR A YACHT ...
GO GAMBLING AND FIND YOURSELF A SPECIAL WOMAN ...
YOU CAN DO ALL OF THAT WITH YOUR MONEY
YOU SHOULD HAVE FUN WITH YOUR MONEY, KEVIN
AND DON'T DO IT HALF-HEARTEDLY.
WOULD IT REALLY BE SO BAD ?
SO WHAT IF THAT HAPPENS?
AND WHAT IF I GO BROKE?
YOU'D JUST GO HUNGRY

HUNGER AND THIRST WILL ONLY SHARPEN YOUR DESIRE...
TO STRIVE FOR WHAT YOU WANT
JUST PILING UP A LOT OF MONEY
AND HOLDING ON TO IT IS MEANINGLESS.
BUT,
LIVING IN SPLENDOR WILL MAKE YOU MORE REFINED

ESMERALDA WAS RIGHT.

AS AN AUTHOR, I ACHIEVED SUCCESS.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE SHE GOT SUCH STRENGTH.

SHE WAS BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN HER MOUTH...

OH, ONE MORE THING
WELL, IF YOU NEED ANY-THING ELSE,
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.
THIS ISLAND USED TO BE A PEACEFUL PLACE WITH MANY EXPEN-SIVE COT-TAGES
LATELY THOUGH, WITH SO MANY TOURISTS, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY STREET KIDS RUNNING AROUND SO PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS
MASTER KEVIN
STREET KIDS

I hope so, too
ha ha ha
I HOPE YOU'LL MAKE SOME PROGRESS WITH YOUR WORK
ha ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha
RENTING SUCH AN EXPENSIVE COTTAGE?
BUT IS IT REALLY OKAY?
SLAM...
I'm serious!
PLEASE LEAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR DAILY EXPENSES AS WELL AS MY PAYCHECK!
*Zaaa is the sound of the waves crashing at the shore.
ZAAA
CARE-FUL, CLIFF,
THAT'S SALT-WATER

ZAA.
"Zaa! is the sound of the waves.
WE'D LIKE YOUR NEXT MANUSCRIPT SOON.
Please try to get another award.
UNTIL NOW... THE TOWNSPEOPLE THOUGHT I WAS A STRANGE WRITER, AND WERE AFRAID TO COME NEAR ME.
AS SOON AS THEY HEARD I WON AN AWARD THOUGH, THEIR ATTITUDES CHANGED!
I SAW YOUR NAME IN A MAGAZINE!
IT SAID YOU WON AN AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE!
PLEASE SHAKE MY HAND!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ YOUR NEXT BOOK!
YOU'RE THE PRIDE OF THIS TOWN!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ YOUR NEXT BOOK!
I DON'T WRITE TO WIN AWARDS!
I FEEL SO SUFFOCATED!
JUST LIKE AN INSECT DROWNING IN WATER
I KEEP FIGHTING TO BREATHE, BUT IT'S USELESS.
THE MORE I STRUGGLE, THE MORE I DROWN

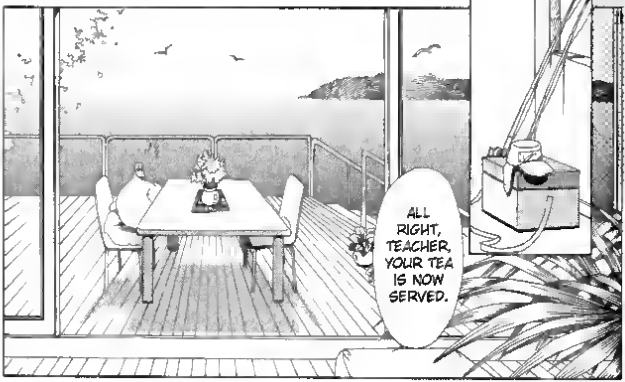
WHATEVER YOU WISH ...
ROSEMARY, WHY DON'T WE GO AWAY FOR A WHILE?
YOU'VE SAVED ME, ROSEMARY...
DO YOU REALIZE THAT?
I'M SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU NEVER CHANGE...

ZAAA
a ha ha
*Zaaa is the sound of the water/waves.
NOD...
A PAINTER?
GOOD AFTER-NOON
WE SHOULDN'T DISTURB HIM WHILE HE'S PAINTING.
ZAA ZAA ZAA
LET'S GO BACK, CLIFF.

THAT'S STRANGE.
I WAS SURE I PACKED IT.
I TOLD YOU, IT'S ALL RIGHT, ROSEMARY.
BUT YOU LOVE MY HOMEMADE JAM, DON'T YOU?
WELL THEN, AS YOU WISH ....
REALLY?
WHILE WE'RE HERE, YOU SHOULD TAKE IT EASY, TOO.
I'M ALL RIGHT.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE.
WELL, YOU WERE COOPED UP IN THE TRUNK ALL DAY.

*Zaaa is the sound of the water/waves.

I'M AN EXPERT
YOU CAN FISH?
SPLASH
WHAT ABOUT YOU MASTER KEVIN? BOYS ARE USUALLY TAUGHT BY THEIR FATHERS, RIGHT?
THERE WAS NEVER ANY TIME FOR THAT
SINCE WE WERE POOR AND THERE WERE TOO MANY KIDS.
I WAS USUALLY WATCHING OVER MY YOUNGER SIBLINGS
WHEN I WASN'T DOING CHORES
SHOULD I FORGET ABOUT THIS ..?
SINCE I'M DOING THE TEACHING THOUGH, YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL ME "TEACHER"
REALLY !?
WELL IN THAT CASE
I'LL TEACH YOU


ALL RIGHT, TEACHER, YOUR TEA IS NOW SERVED.

IS A LITTLE WEIRD.
BEING SERVED LIKE THIS
CLINK
IS ICED TEA OKAY?

THAT I MAKE AWFUL TEA.
BESIDES, THE PROFESSOR TELLS ME
Are you still holding a grudge?
That bastard~

DON'T MIND IT
WE CAME TO THIS ISLAND TO PLAY AROUND

WELL, YOU NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING EITHER
BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN FISH
YOU NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF
SUCH AS WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU... AFTER YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME
BECAUSE IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ANYMORE
HMM
WELL

P
Buying groceries
THINGS ARE RELATIVELY LIVELY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND.
Hmm
sigh...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT KIND OF STORY SHOULD I WRITE NEXT?
ARE YOU A TOURIST?
HEY!

SURROUND!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS MAP! THERE ARE SOME GREAT PLACES HERE!
SNATCH

WHILE I'M DISTRACTED WITH THE MAP ...
YOU TRY TO SNATCH MY WALLET, HUH?
GRAB
SHOULDN'T YOU PICK YOUR TARGETS MORE CAREFULLY?
A LONG TIME AGO, I USED TO DO THAT TOO

DAMN IT! LET GO!
KLINK
GRAB
ARRGH!

YOU COULD GET KILLED.
YOU SHOULD ONLY USE A KNIFE WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GET HURT YOURSELF.
rustle
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

smile
RUSTLE
tap tap
IN THE MEANTIME, THEY'RE TREATED LIKE STRAY CATS AND SEWER RATS...
WITHOUT SOMEONE TO CARE FOR THEM,
THESE HOMELESS KIDS FORM GROUPS THEY DELEGATE DUTIES AND LIVE CO-DEPENDENTLY

THE NEW KID YOU BROUGHT YESTERDAY
IT LOOKS LIKE HE BROKE HIS ARM
HEY, NICK.
NICK.
LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE'LL PROBABLY DIE.
DID HE EAT THE BREAD?
HE DIDN'T WANT TO EAT IT. SAID HE CAN'T EAT STOLEN GOODS
LOOKS LIKE HE HAS A FEVER, TOO
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU KICKED HIM TOO HARD

IF HE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF,
HE'S JUST A WASTE OF OUR TIME.

I WON'T DIE ...!
I WON'T DIE

I KNEW THAT I HAD TO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO MAKE IT ON MY OWN..
WHEN I WAS 11 YEARS OLD...
I LEARNED THE HARD WAY ABOUT REALITY.
OR I'D NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE!

YOU'RE QUITE STRONG
WAIT UP.
I SAW YOU IN THE ALLEY JUST NOW.
AH!
IT'S THE PAINTER FROM THE BEACH YESTERDAY!
YOU'RE A WRITER?
ER... HOW ..?
PAR-DON ME
MY PARENTS MANAGE THE PROPERTY ON THIS ISLAND.
THE COTTAGE YOU'RE RENTING BELONGS TO MY FATHER THAT'S HOW I KNOW.

VROOM...
NO PROBLEM I WAS JUST HEADING BACK
IS IT OKAY IF I HITCH A RIDE WITH YOU?
I SEE... THE MANAGER'S SON.
GREAT. I OFTEN GO TO THE BEACH AND SKETCH.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME MEETING SOMEONE SO FAMOUS!
IT'S A LITTLE UNSETTLING RIDING IN AN AUTHOR'S CAR THOUGH.
WAS YOUR FATHER AN AUTHOR, TOO?
OR SOME KIND OF LITERARY PERSON?
Maybe it's hereditary?
I THINK IT'S REALLY AMAZING THAT YOU WRITE FOR A LIVING
MY GOAL IS TO BECOME A PAINTER.
timid
Though this IS a rental car
WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, IT MAKES ME NERVOUS, TOO.

WHEN I WAS A KID, MY DAD WOULD SPANK ME WHENEVER I TALKED ABOUT BECOMING A WRITER!
YOU'RE COMPLETELY OFF!
HA HA HA
YOU'RE LIVING OUT YOUR DREAM.
I ENVY YOU.
THAT'S GREAT THOUGH.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT MY SKETCH? IT'S THE ONE I DREW YESTERDAY.
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
NO WAY! YOU'RE TALENTED!
BUT I HAVE TROUBLES JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

I THINK A PICTURE LIKE THIS COULD WIN A CONTEST!
I KNEW SOMEONE LIKE YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND!
HMM
IT'S QUITE UNIQUE... A FULL MOON AGAINST A CLEAR BLUE SKY.
ISN'T IT THOUGH? ♡
BUT I DON'T HAVE A JOB
BEING ABLE TO DRAW IN YOUR SPARE TIME I MEAN.
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
SLAM
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG THOUGH.
I'M ALREADY THIRTY YEARS OLD.
older than I were!?

IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT ME AND JUDGING ME.
AND I'LL JUST STARE BLANKLY AT HOME ALL DAY.
SOMETIMES I HAVE A HARD TIME
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING
EVEN GOING OUT
MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE.
I GET LIKE THAT, TOO.
I UNDERSTAND THE FEELING,
I WORRY SOMETIMES...
THAT I CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.
BUT...
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A PAINTER, AREN'T YOU?
AND YOU'RE WORKING ON A MASTERPIECE, RIGHT?
YOU HAVEN'T REALLY WASTED YOUR TIME!

I ALWAYS STOP PAINTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS.
I WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING GREAT AND AWE-INSPIRING,
BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH YET
THAT'S WHY I COME HERE TO DRAW HUNDREDS OF PICTURES OF THE SEA.
I...
HAVEN'T PAINTED ANYTHING THAT'S BEEN SHOWN IN PUBLIC.
WHAT...!?
NOT EVEN ONCE!?

SOMEDAY I'LL ATTAIN THE SKILLS I DESIRE
IT'S NOT THAT EASY!!
"SOMEDAY"?
WILL THAT DAY EVER COME?
WILL YOU EVER REACH YOUR GOAL IF YOU NEVER FINISH A SINGLE PAINTING?
BUT IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT AS A PROFESSIONAL PAINTER
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN SKETCH ALL DAY AT HOME?
SO I DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TIME TO DRAW.
BE-SIDES ...
MY FRIENDS INVITE ME OUT TO HAVE FUN.
I'M PRETTY BUSY EVEN LIKE THIS.

A PROFESSIONAL LIKE YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THE TROUBLES AND INSECURITIES OF AN AMATEUR LIKE ME!
YOU'RE "SPECIAL"!
MY TEACHERS OFTEN PRAISED ME, BUT ...
IN HIGH SCHOOL, I HAD BETTER GRADES THAN EVERYONE ELSE.
I'M SCARED ...
IT'D BE REALLY EMBARRASSING.
IF I WERE TO FAIL ...
SINCE MY PARENTS ARE WELL-KNOWN ON THIS ISLAND ...
I DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT THAT I'M JUST AN ORDINARY PERSON!!

I UNDERSTAND MYSELF BEST!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT!
I KNOW THAT I HAVE TO MOVE MY OWN FEET IF I WANT TO CHANGE
I WONDER WHAT HE UNDERSTANDS . .
WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF. .
I JUST DON'T LET OTHERS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ME THE WAY YOU DO
LISTEN, I'M JUST AN ORDINARY GUY--
NOT "SPECIAL" AT ALL
JUST TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE SEA.
TODAY I'M HERE
THE MOON TALKS TO ME, TOO.
ONLY I CAN HEAR IT
Are you a psychic?!
IT TALKS? THE SEA!?

It's all right
to stay like this.

If I...

wait like this...

surely my dreams
will come true...

I RAN AS FAR AS I COULD BECAUSE I WAS HAUNTED BY MY PAST...
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
IT'S NOT ALL RIGHT TO WAIT FOR THINGS TO HAPPEN
I COULD HEAR THEIR VOICES AND I KNEW INTUITIVELY THAT THINGS HAD TO CHANGE...
THIEF!
LET HIM BE. HE'LL PROBABLY DIE.
I NEVER NEEDED ANYONE TO TELL ME THAT.

MASTER KEVIN
Look here!
I MADE JELLY.
APRICOT JELLY!
silence
IT'S COLD AND DELICIOUS!
ROSE-MARY!
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE EVER SINCE YOU RETURN-ED FROM SHOPPING!
FLAP FLAP

I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED
IT'S NOTHING
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO STAY LIKE THIS
IF I COULD RUN AWAY AND ESCAPE THE BURDEN OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES...
LIFE WOULD BE SO EASY!

*Zaa is the sound of the waves.

SEA HORSES !?
ZAA ZAA ZAA
PLEASE LOOK CLOSELY AT THE ROCKS
LOOK OVER THERE, MASTER KEVIN
COUNTLESS SEA HORSES ARE GALLOPING OUT OF THE SEA.

LOOK AT THE TIPS OF THE WAVES WHILE IMAGINING THE HEADS OF MANY HORSES
IT'S ONLY AN OPTICAL ILLUSION
Flap Flap
BUT THOSE ARE JUST WAVES

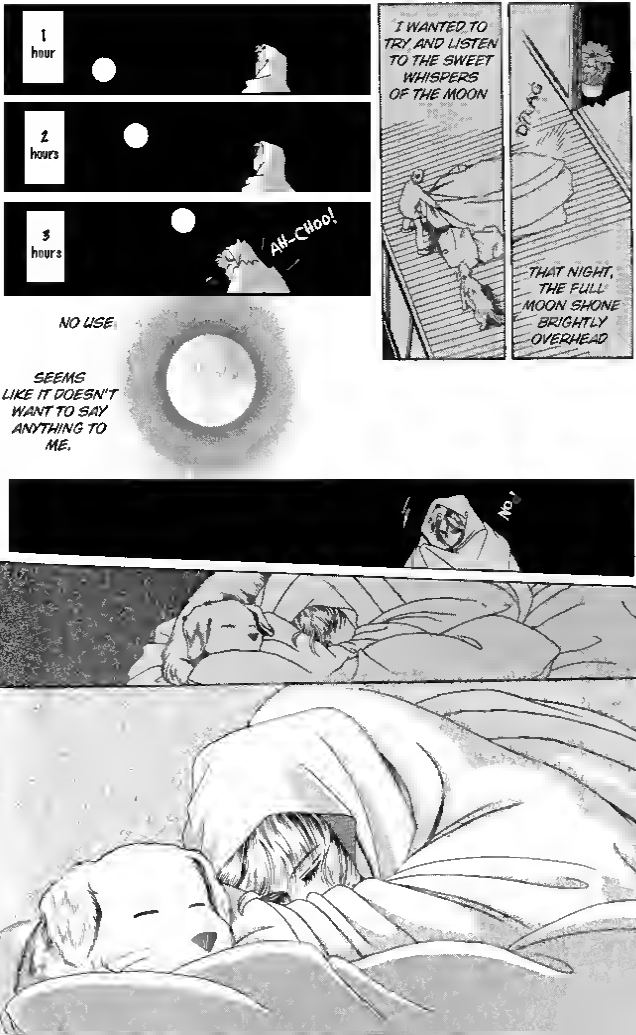
CRAZY
SOME SAY THOSE HORSES ARE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.

THOSE WHO LEAVE THE WORLD WITH REGRETS
TRY TO ESCAPE FROM THE SEA SO THEY CAN BE REBORN

THEY WANT TO RETURN TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD TO FULFILL THE DREAMS THEY LEFT BEHIND.
SO THEY REACH FOR THE BEACH A THOUSAND TIMES AND MORE... BUT IN THE END, THEY ALWAYS FAIL.
IT'S SO SAD TO WATCH THEM AS THEY DISAPPEAR IN THE FOAMY WAVES...

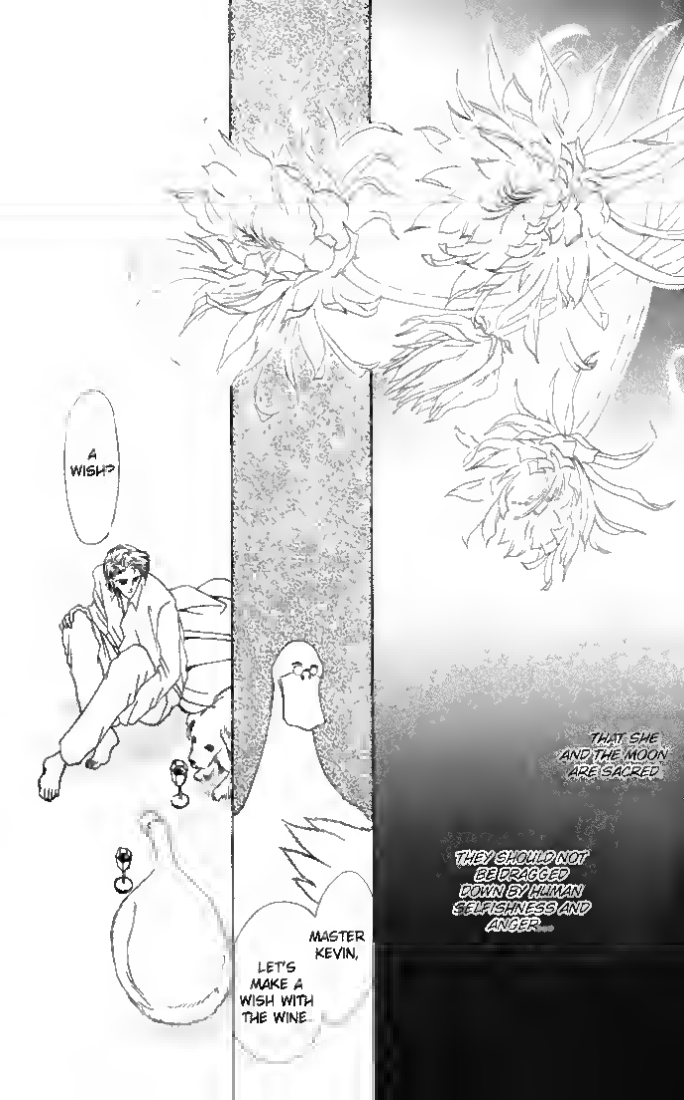
ONE SEA HORSE ...
CAN ESCAPE THE WAVES ...?
NOT EVEN ...
IT'S ONLY A TALE, MASTER KEVIN.
ONLY ...
A MADE-UP TALE ....

I ADMIRE YOU FOR BEING LIKE THE SEA HORSES THAT TRY WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT TO ESCAPE THE WAVES.
BUT, MASTER KEVIN, RATHER THAN SITTING HERE QUIETLY DOING NOTHING ...
IF IT HAD BEEN ROSEMARY...
WHAT WOULD SHE HAVE SAID...
TO ONE WHO HAS ALREADY CHOSEN TO RUN AWAY ...?

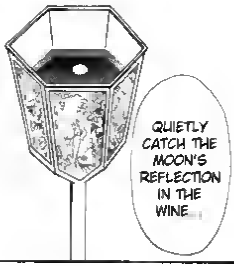

1 hour
2 hours
3 hours
Ah-Choo!
I WANTED TO TRY AND LISTEN TO THE SWEET WHISPERS OF THE MOON
DRAG
THAT NIGHT, THE FULL MOON SHONE BRIGHTLY OVERHEAD
NO USE.
SEEMS LIKE IT DOESN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING TO ME.
No!

HUH
You'll catch a cold
SITS UP
!?

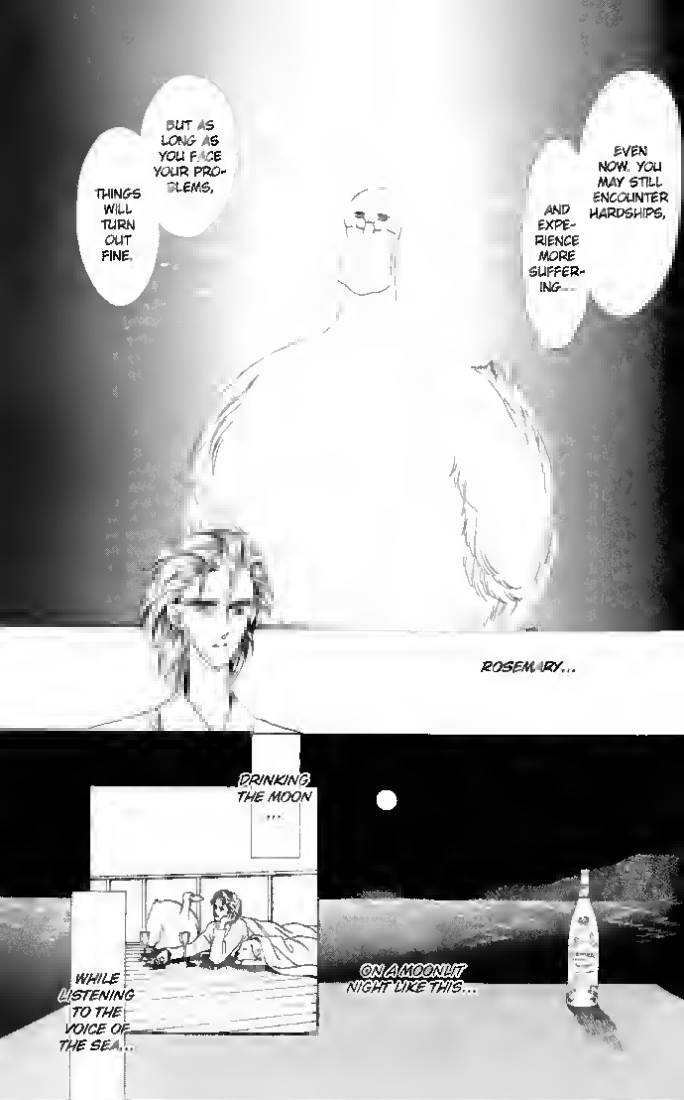
I BROUGHT SOME WINE.
ROSEMARY LOOKS BEAUTIFUL.
I FEEL IN MY HEART..
WHAT IS IT?
AH, NOTHING


A WISH?
MASTER KEVIN,
LET'S MAKE A WISH WITH THE WINE.
THEY SHOULD NOT BE DRAGGED DOWN BY HUMAN SELFISHNESS AND ANGER...
THAT SHE AND THE MOON ARE SACRED.

GULP
AND DRINK THE WHOLE GLASS


QUIETLY CATCH THE MOON'S REFLECTION IN THE WINE

LUCK IS IN MY BODY...!?
IS IN YOUR BODY
NOW "LUCK"
SEE?


EVEN NOW, YOU MAY STILL ENCOUNTER HARDSHIPS,
AND EXPERIENCE MORE SUFFERING...
BUT AS LONG AS YOU FACE YOUR PROBLEMS,
THINGS WILL TURN OUT FINE.
ROSEMARY...
ON A MOONLIT NIGHT LIKE THIS...
DRINKING THE MOON...
WHILE LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE SEA...

Listening to the Voice of the Sea/fin

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CONDENSATION/*CHU*

The Fredward project needs editors. If you want to help make people happy and spread a love for all kinds of manga, please get in touch with us.

Thanks!

Fredward-shi no Ahiru

Chapter 07 Credits

mangaka: Ushijima Keiko
scanner: Kurai-chan
translator. Sandrine
translation help: Elina
cleaner: mimph
editor: lovebelieverXO
QCers: suey & Vanderguard
special thanks. Elina & Tsuzuki Love

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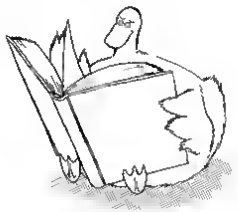
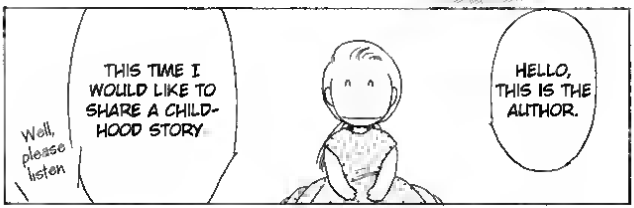
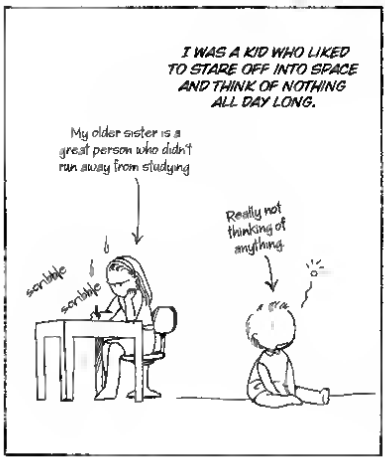
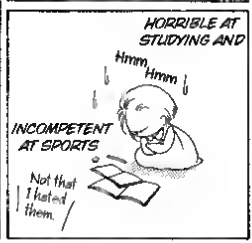
DUCK BONUS




Well, please listen
THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A CHILD-HOOD STORY
HELLO, THIS IS THE AUTHOR.


I WAS A KID WHO LIKED TO STARE OFF INTO SPACE AND THINK OF NOTHING ALL DAY LONG.
My older sister is a great person who didn't run away from studying
scribble
scribble
Really not thinking of anything

AS A CHILD, I WAS...


HORRIBLE AT STUDYING AND
Hmm Hmm
INCOMPETENT AT SPORTS
Not that I hated them.

DUCK BONUS

I grew up like that
AH
Well, in short,
AHA
MY OLDER SISTER HAS A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR BEAUTIFUL LITERATURE AND POETRY.
EVEN NOW, SHE STILL ENJOYS READING.
This is how it sounds to me
Going in one ear and out the other
THERE WAS A POEM IN A BOOK SHE LENT ME...
munch munch

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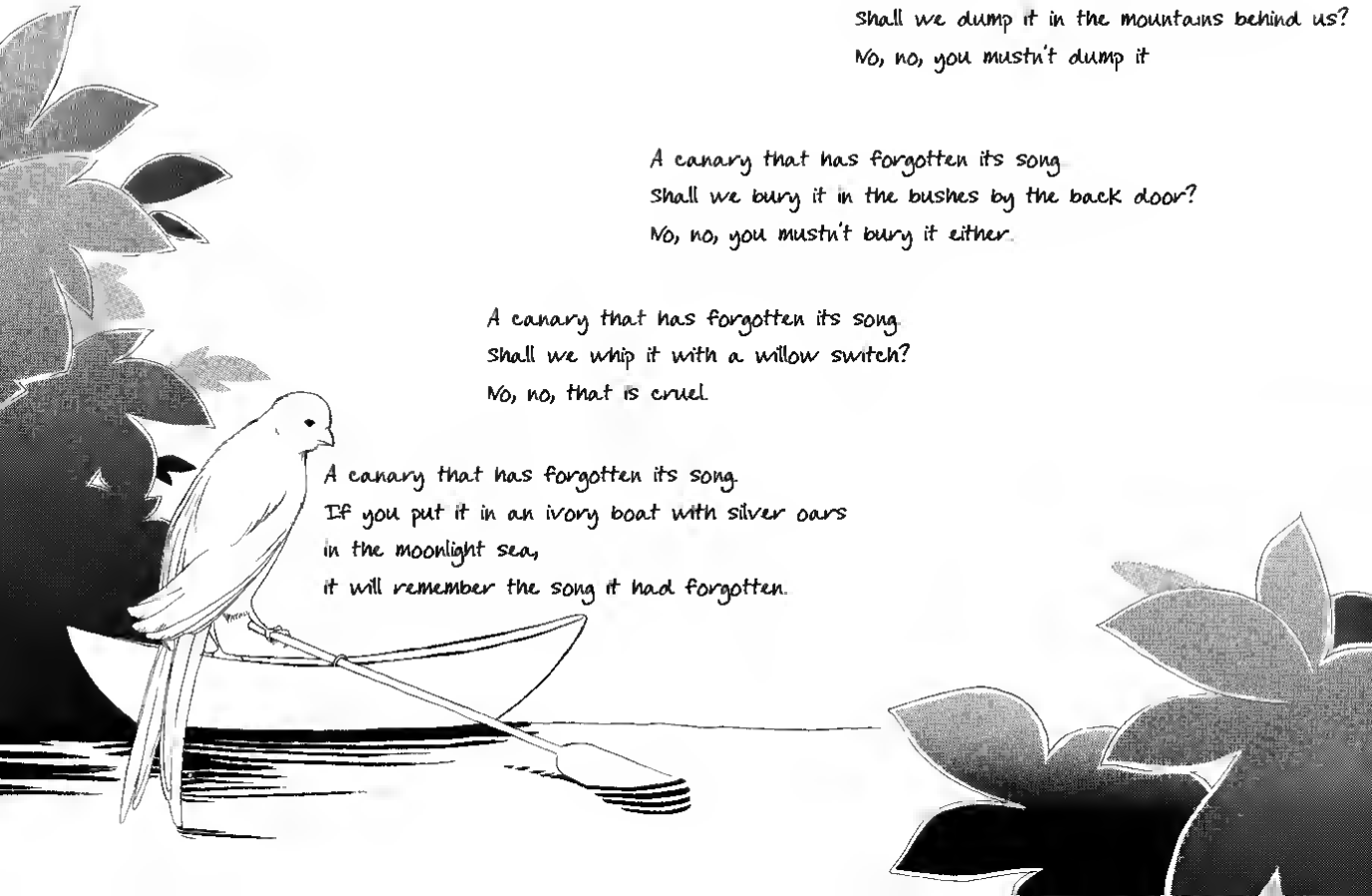
Canary by Saijou Yasa

A canary that has forgotten its song
Shall we dump it in the mountains behind us?
No, no, you mustn't dump it

A canary that has forgotten its song
Shall we bury it in the bushes by the back door?
No, no, you mustn't bury it either

A canary that has forgotten its song
Shall we whip it with a willow switch?
No, no, that is cruel

A canary that has forgotten its song
If you put it in an ivory boat with silver oars
in the moonlight sea,
it will remember the song it had forgotten



Someday it will go out into the moonlit sea and find its own world. Then it will sing to us all from up high.

when I first heard it,

That was a poem that I loved when I was young.

we shouldn't throw it away in the mountains, or bury it in a well, or whip it.

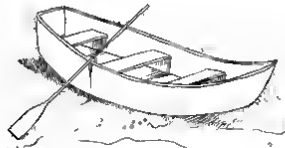
I learned that even though a canary couldn't sing,

...WELL, RIGHT NOW,

Though it is only a small useless bird,

if it is set free in the moonlit sea with an ivory boat and silver paddle, we may hear its unexpected voice.

I WISH TO THANK THE PEOPLE THAT READ THIS BOOK.



Duck Bonus -end-

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